

SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

Indian Tea Association.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

GENERAL COMMITTEE

For the year ending 30th June 1925.



Calcutta:

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1926.

Indian Tea Association.

SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SURMA VALLEY BRANCH, INDIAN TEA
ASSOCIATION, held at the Amusement Club, Silchar,
on Monday, the 23rd February 1925.

PRESENT :

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C.,	MR. P. G. O'BRIEN.
(Chairman).	" H. G. WEBB.
" R. T. FRASER.	" H. J. MOUNSEY.
" C. MACLEOD.	" L. A. HEALY.
" H. GILBERT.	" T. W. SHEPPARD.
" C. A. WILLIAMS.	" H. E. P. GILL
" H. L. BIRLEY.	" J. H. JEWELL.
" A. MCCREATH.	" B. GUPTA.
" D. PATERSON.	" A. BROWN.
" E. C. T. DODD.	" J. K. CULLINAN
" E. G. PETERS.	" A. F. STUART.
" J. MACKNIGHT.	" A. B. BEDDOW.
" G. M. C. BLACK.	" N. H. N. MACLEOD.
" F. W. CARPENTER.	" R. H. HOSSACK.
" W. STEWART.	" A. J. MACKENZIE.
" H. L. BIGGE.	" A. G. BROWN.
" R. G. MATHEWSON.	" F. R. RAYMOND.
" J. A. MINTO.	" J. R. THOMSON.
" A. B. DUCAT.	" P. MACIVER.
" H. A. BULL.	" T. E. HOLBROOK.
" J. D. JENKINS.	" G. MORTIMER.
" F. PULLEN.	" W. TYRES.
" C. M. JAMESON.	" J. M. TAYLOR.

MR. A. R. DICKSON.	MR. V. KNOTT.
" J. TURNER.	" V. F. HILLIER.
" T. W. T. STREET.	" R. MORTIMORE.
" G. T. RING.	" R. H. C. DUNCAN.
" C. W. FORBES.	" J. N. TALBOT.
" J. MASSEY SHAW.	" A. ST. J. MORRISON.
" J. E. CAMPBELL.	" T. A. EVERARD.
" E. S. STUART.	" A. B. MARTIN.
" W. K. GREEN.	" J. A. ELLIOT.
" R. C. LESTER.	" E. W. HUGHES.
" W. B. R. MCWHA.	" A. G. FURRELL.
" H. E. BENNETT.	" H. M. GIRLING.
" H. F. CLARK.	" J. M. BARRY.
" W. MCDUGALL.	" C. R. FOX.
" D. H. MACKAY.	" T. W. L'ESTRANGE.
" J. C. NOBLE.	" H. TAYLOR.
" G. S. GALL.	" H. R. PULLEN.
" H. D. MARSHALL, O.B.E.	" W. G. STOKER.
" P. TRINKLE.	" R. H. TALBOT.
" J. ELDER.	" M. MCCARTHY O'LEARY.
" J. NORMAN ROSS.	" C. W. ALEXANDER.
" S. A. PEARSON.	" R. D. NEILSON.
" N. W. DEWAR.	" J. S. CARGILL.
" F. ROSS JONES.	" H. EMBLEN.
" A. H. GREATREX.	" C. R. WALKER.
" D. BROWN.	" JAS. WATSON.
" D. TULLOCH.	" J. R. ATKINSON.
" J. D. JOWITT.	" R. HUNTER.
" A. GRIEVE.	" W. E. D. COOPER.
" WM. CULLEN.	
" G. N. W. GRIMSHAW.	} (by their proxy Mr. H. Gilbert)
" S. PATERSON.	
" W. LAWIE (by his proxy Mr. D. Paterson.)	
" P. CRUICKSHANK (by his proxy Mr. J. R. Thomson.)	

GUESTS.

The following gentlemen attended the Meeting by the invitation of the Committee:—

REV. W. H. S. WOOD.

" T. W. REESE.

THE HON'BLE SIR WILLIAM JAMES REID, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S.
MR. J. E. WEBSTER, C.S.I., C.I.E., Commissioner, Surma Valley
and Hill Division.

" H. G. DENNEHY, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner Cachar.

" H. BEAUMONT, Superintendent of Police, Cachar.

MAJOR J. L. SEN, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon, Cachar.

MAJOR J. L. SEN, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon, Cachar.

MR. C. J. ROWBOTHAM, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Cachar.

" T. AUSTIN, I.C.S., Chairman, Assam Labour Board.

" P. H. CARPENTER, Chief Scientific Officer, Tocklai.

" A. R. LEISHMAN, President, Chittagong Chamber of
Commerce.

" T. C. CRAWFORD, (Representative, I. T. A., Calcutta).

" A. J. COOPER, Traffic Manager, Assam-Bengal Railway.

" A. P. G. ROCHFORD, District Traffic Superintendent,
Badarpur, Assam-Bengal, Railway.

" J. DALGLEISH, (Burmah Oil Co., Ltd., Badarpur).

" W. J. ROBERTSON, (Burmah Oil Co., Ltd., Badarpur.)

" A. O. WYPER.

" J. W. ROBERTSON.

" G. T. CULLEN.

Lt.-COL. A. J. MACLAUGHLIN.

DR. G. C. RAMSAY.

" E. WATSON.

MR. R. MACDONALD, (Balijan Tea Co., Upper Assam).

" J. W. TROTMAN.

Letters were received from the following gentlemen regretting
their inability to attend :—

MR. A. BENTINCK, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

The Sub-Divisional Officer, South Sylhet.

" " " Hailakandi.

MR. A. J. DASH, I.C.S., Political Agent, Tripura State.

" A. T. HALLIDAY, Superintendent of Police, Sylhet.

" J. A. MILLIGAN, I.C.S., Travelling Superintendent, Tea
Districts Labour Association.

" JOHN HARPUR, Commissioner for India, Indian Tea Cess
Committee.

" G. ANSON BAYLEY, Agent, Assam-Bengal Railway.

MR. N. P. DUTT, Superintendent of Post Offices, Cachar Division.

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C. having taken the chair, the Secretary read the notice covering the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN then addressed the meeting as follows:—

Gentlemen, first of all I would like to welcome our guests, and congratulate Sir William Reid, not only on his well deserved title, but also on being chosen to act as Governor of this province during the absence of Sir John Kerr, this is, I believe, the first occasion that an "Assam" man has been chosen for this honour, and we trust it will not be the last. I would also like to thank Mr. Webster not only from the Tea Association, but from every planter in this Valley for his kindness, and consideration to every one of us, we regret your going Sir, and trust you will change your mind and return.

As in my opinion, this is a most important meeting in this Valley with reference to the tea industry, and as there are some items of very vital interest to us all, I am going to make no apology for taking up a little more of your time than usual this morning. Time or rather the want of it is our chief difficulty at this meeting. One is supposed to review the whole work of your General Committee for a year in a few minutes. The views I express Gentlemen, are only my own views and I do not say they are correct views, but what I ask you to do, is to pick out any thing of value, and throw the rest away.

We will take one of the most difficult subject first, and that is the question of coolie wages. Now Gentlemen, if I read the signs of the times aright, and one of these signs is the very portentous one of the Trade Union Legislation now before the Legislative Assembly; my advice to the tea industry is to put its house in order, and to gradually put an end to the perquisite of feudal system, without compulsion and without friction, and one of my reasons for saying so is that the feudal system, and ultra modern trade unionism on the lines now introduced into India (about which we shall have something to say presently) never yet worked together. Now what has the Government of Assam to say

with reference to this system in their last Immigration Report, in case there are any planters here who have not seen this. I had better read it out :—

* * * * *

"The actual cash earnings bear no relation to the nominal or minimum wage, and it is for those engaged in the Tea Industry to consider seriously how much longer they will continue, by offering a nominal wage so low in itself as to be misleading, to handicap themselves against other competitors in the labour market and to expose themselves to criticisms, which if ill founded come naturally from those unacquainted with actual conditions on the tea gardens. The labourer seeking for employment, and the student of affairs endeavouring to compare the attractiveness of the terms which different industries offer, alike look first at the daily, weekly or monthly wage. The fact that on Assam tea gardens a great deal more than the nominal wage can be, and indeed is earned at certain seasons of the year, and that valuable concessions in the form of free housing, cheap rice and land for private cultivation are given is something that requires lengthy explanation, and even then has to be taken on trust."

Now one cannot help but feel there is a great deal of truth in what the Government of Assam have to say, they are not commercial but they can see that the time has come that a vast industry like the tea industry employing over 1,000,000 coolies in this province, cannot be run on a system of trust.

What are the figures in the Government returns? they are:—

SURMA VALLEY.				ASSAM VALLEY.			
Men.	Women.	Ch.	Total.	Men	Women.	Ch.	Total.
8-12-10	6-15-5	4-11-4	20-7-7	11-5-1	9-8-9	5-11-4	26-9-2

These are the figures by which the tea industry has to be judged, not only by the coolies we wish to recruit, not only by the Government of this Country, but by the working classes all over the world; and I tell you gentlemen, that because we run on this system that there is no industry so much in the limelight at the present time as the tea industry. So I say to the industry, cut out the perquisite system which the Government says has to

be taken on trust, increase the coolies pay and place the industry above criticism. I am fully aware that to increase the coolies pay Re. 1/- per month costs 35 lakhas of rupees in the Surma Valley, but I maintain that a little more spent locally means greater wage earning capabilities among the coolies, as economic stress on a malarious, and hookworm infected labour force means a poor labour return.

Some planters may possibly say that is a question for the individual concerns, and not the community, but so long as the Government of Assam show our figures as combined figures (for which I see no necessity) and so long as we combine under the Labour Rules. I say that the question of coolies pay is one for the community, and not for the individual.

TRADE UNION LEGISLATION.

I only wish we had time to go fully into the question of this proposed legislation, but as this is impossible I trust that every planter will get a copy of the Act under discussion and study it very carefully for himself, as large employers of labour like ourselves should go into legislation of this sort very carefully. With the time at our disposal I can only briefly touch on a few points. The reason of the legislation is given by the Government of India as follows:—

“Under the existing law, officers and members of a trade union who in order to further a strike induce workmen to break their contracts with their employers can be sued in the Civil Courts and may in certain circumstances be liable to criminal prosecution. The bill now drafted protects them from these risks.”

This will give you some idea as to the comprehensive nature of this bill.

Gentlemen, having studied trade unionism at home with trade unionists, and having watched it ever since, and seeing to-day British credit higher than it has ever been in the history of Britain, I say that trade unionism at the right time, and in the right place is good. I tell you this gentlemen, to show you that I am not one of those to whom any question of trade unionism is anathema. But is there any one here who can honestly say that India at the present

time is fit for the most up-to-date trade unionism? Why at the very moment that the Governor General was advocating trade unionism for this country, one of his Lieutenants Sir Harcourt Butler was (and is not very successfully) trying to stop human sacrifices.

Does not the Indian Government realize that in Britain some time elapsed between human sacrifices and the present day unionism? Does not the Government of India realize that trade unions were in existence a very long time before there was any thought of the legalization of them? Does not the Government of India realize that the trade unionists at home are educated men who know the economic questions of the different industries, as well if not better than the Government itself? I say that the poor uneducated Indian labourer knows nothing of these things, and will only get into the hands of the agitators, and at the present time it will become not a trade union, but a political union for the furtherance of racial animosities and political strife.

REPATRIATION OF COOLIES.

I am referring to this as there appears to be a great deal of misapprehension not only with reference to the repatriating of these coolies, but also as regards any repatriation which may have to take place.

Now, gentlemen, a number of new coolies from the Ceded districts of Madras absolutely refused to remain for reasons which we need not go into, but nothing to do with the management of the gardens concerned. These coolies left their gardens in the Dibrugarh district and marched men, women and children nearly to Gauhati, Chaparmukh to be correct, during the rains, nearly 200 miles. Some died, some were born on the road, and being planters and practical men, you can quite understand the condition these people were in. Can anyone say here that to allow these people to continue marching would have been either a credit to the tea industry, or an inducement to Provincial Governments to give us greater facilities for recruiting? I cannot think that we can blame the Government of Assam for unduly interfering, gentlemen, there are no laws for the repatriating of coolies, and no Government funds available for this object, so I think you can

take it from me that no Government officer will take upon himself the responsibility of repatriating any coolies without the order of the Governor in Council.

ACT XIII.

Now, gentlemen, Act XIII and sections 490 and 492 of the I. P. C. as you know finish on the 1st April, of next year, and your General Committee together with the Assam Branch, I. T. A. consider it absolutely useless to ask for any legislation at the present time, which would be of the slightest use to the tea industry, in its place.

TREATMENT OF INDIANS.

Last year in Shillong, there was a meeting between the Indian members of the Council and the representatives of the Tea Industry, but as there was not a single complaint, so far as this Valley was concerned, I saw no necessity of issuing a notice as the Chairman of Assam Valley thought necessary. At the same time I would appeal to the younger members of the Tea Association in this Valley to move with the times, and try and understand that India to-day is very different to what it was even ten years ago, and this is nothing to the changes some of us are going to see in the next ten years. So I would impress on the younger members of the Association, without offence to remember that it is on their behaviour, and their treatment of the Indian that the future of this vast industry depends.

TEA CESS AND TEA PILFERING.

As you are aware gentlemen, there is a tea cess of -/6/- per 100 lbs. which comes to 12 lakhs of rupees, out of this amount (and what was brought forward) 6 lakhs is yearly spent in America with most gratifying results, 2½ lakhs in France with disappointing results, and 4½ lakhs in India with what results I cannot tell you, as there is so much stolen tea which would have to be taken into consideration.

Now with reference to this stealing of tea, the Government C. I. D. officer reports that there is 25,000 mds. of tea being stolen in the Dibrugarah district alone, which should give the Government and the tea industry some idea as to what extent this illicit trade

has grown. With reference to this illicit trade my opinion is that the law of the land has failed, and I consider that the tea industry is only asking for what is absolutely necessary when we ask for special legislation. It cannot be for the good of the people or the Government of this country, and to have an enormous illicit trade in an article like this must give the people a contempt for the law. Knowing the difficulties of special legislation, I would ask the Government of this province for legislation on the lines of the Madras Coffee Stealing Prevention Act. Madras VIII 1878. Provided we get some such form of protection we are prepared to open shops for the sale of tea throughout the province of Assam, but at present it would only be encouraging this illicit trade.

In the meantime I would impress on all planters the necessity of protecting their property to the best of their ability.

PRICE OF PETROL.

I make no apology for again referring to this question as mechanical transport is becoming far more general in this valley. The price of petrol I believe is:—

In London	...	...	1s. 2d.
In Calcutta	...	...	2s. 2d.
In the Surma Valley	...	...	2s. 9d.

Perhaps the Manager B. O. C. Badarpur will explain these figures to us, and not treat us like the Manager of B. O. C. did the Assam Branch, and ask us to review the machinery.

I would like to appeal to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to see if it will not be possible to buy in London and reship to this country; the price of petrol cannot be more than 10d. a gallon in London in bulk, in bond; and the carriage, if it can be arranged, cannot be more than 3d. per gallon; so roughly it could be sold in this country at about half what it is costing now. This Branch tried to arrange to ship petrol from home but was unable to obtain quotations.

CHOLERA IN THE SURMA VALLEY.

Last year, I regret to say that cholera was very prevalent in this Valley, and I suggested to the I.T.A., Calcutta that the garden

Doctor Babus might be allowed to inoculate any busti-wallahs who wanted to be inoculated, and the Government should supply vaccine free of cost. Both refused—the P. T. A., Calcutta, appeared to think that the tea planters responsibilities finished at his boundary, but surely the food supply of his coolies is the business of the tea planter, and surely it cannot be good for his coolies to feed them on food from cholera affected houses. The Government reply was a very rambling contradictory letter that they could not supply vaccine “free to tea garden managers” also could not supply vaccine free to villagers as the Government of India charged them, also that the villagers are generally opposed to inoculation, all of which is very much outside this question and could lead to no result.

I appeal again to the I. T. A., Calcutta to allow the medical staff of the tea gardens to assist, and I appeal again to the Government of Assam to give the vaccine free and I say, let the Government and the tea industry combine and stamp out cholera in this Valley, and so show that we are not indifferent to the sufferings of these people. The Bengal Government have withdrawn the grant of 40,000/- (formerly given to the Pasteur Institute, Shillong) having opened their own anti-rabic treatment centre in Calcutta, after having benefitted by the Pasteur Institute in Shillong for a number of years. The Bengal Government will only assist this province so far as it suits themselves in the same direction, and as in time of trouble the tea industry has to appeal to the Government of Assam, it is in my opinion to the Pasteur Institute in Shillong, that the money subscribed by the tea industry of Assam should be given. Unless the tea industry replaces the grant withdrawn by the Government of Bengal, the activities of the Pasteur Institute in Shillong will have to be curtailed, and the Government of Assam will be unable to assist us in time of stress. Gentlemen, I wish to thank Messrs. Macneill & Co., for so kindly granting me leave to do the work of your Chairman, and to Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd., for supplying men for Vice-Chairman, Council, and the Secretary's work.

I would also thank the Agent and Officers of the Assam-Bengal Railway and the Steamer Co.'s for their unfailing courtesy, and readiness to meet any suggestion from the General Committee, Surma Valley Branch.

Before I propose that the accounts of this Branch be passed, I would like to thank the Government of Assam for their congratulations to the planters of the Surma Valley:—

“The planters of the Surma Valley are to be congratulated on the good relations that prevailed between the employers and employed. No disturbance of any kind was reported.”

A statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December 1924, and the Annual Report of the Branch for the year ending 30th June 1924, which have already been circulated to all members, showed that the subscriptions for the year amounted to Rs. 9,882/- including an office allowance of Rs. 1,200/- received from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta. The total receipts for the year were Rs. 12,216/- and expenditure amounted to Rs. 9,551/-. The accounts for the year were closed with a cash balance of Rs. 2,665/- in hand.

The Association now represents 159 estates with an acreage of 131,786½ acres as against 133,050 acres last year (1923). There were about 42 Indian owned estates in the Surma Valley, of which only are members of this Branch of the Association. The reason that there are so few Indian gardens, is because, I think, of the Labour Rules, as no garden in the Surma Valley can join the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, unless its proprietors become signatories to the Labour Rules.

Gentlemen, I now beg to propose:—

“That the Report for the year ending 30th June 1924, and the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1924, be passed.”

This being seconded by MR. R. T. FRASER, was unanimously passed.

The HON'BLE SIR WILLIAM JAMES REID, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., in addressing the Meeting, spoke as follows:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I want first to thank you on my own behalf and on behalf of other guests for the welcome you have given us. In particular I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the very kind things you have said about me and for your congratulations. I have lived all my official life in the tea

districts among tea planters I lived here in Silchar for several years, and it is always a great pleasure to me to come back and meet old friends even like this on the field of battle.

Well, Sir, your speech covered a great deal of ground, and you had the advantage of studying the ground beforehand, preparing your line of advance, placing your artillery in position, and arranging the battle as you wished it. I could not come prepared, but will do my best to reply. I know you will all extend to me the same good will and good understanding that I have always had from you.

You spoke first, Mr. Chairman, on the very important question of tea garden wages. This is a matter that the Government have had under their anxious consideration for many years. It is a matter to which I personally have given a great deal of attention. You read to the meeting a brief extract from our Resolution on Immigrant Labour for last year. I should like for a moment to call attention to two documents of rather earlier date. I refer to the Report of the Labour Enquiry Committee conducted its enquiries and presented its Report in 1921-22 and our Resolution on that Report. I seem to remember having in this very place urged all members of your Association to read these documents. I do not suppose that every one followed my advice. At all events one of the terms of reference to the Committee was to advise whether the remuneration in money payments together with the concessions received by the coolies in the way of housing, medical attendance, cheap rice, clothing, garden land, etc., is sufficient to maintain the labourers in health and reasonable comfort. They said:—"The expression 'health and reasonable comfort' is elastic enough to admit of various interpretations. The Committee think that they are placing a fair construction on the term if they take it to mean a decent living wage, that is not a mere subsistence allowance but a wage that would suffice to keep a coolie in health and reasonable comfort with the possibility of saving a little. The Committee believe that the term "reasonable comfort" connotes the possibility of saving a little. Much depends on the individual coolie as to whether he will save or spend whatever margin may remain after providing for food and clothing. He may prefer to spend it on petty luxuries, but the Committee think that the coolie should in any case have a small

margin to be utilised as he chooses. Dr. Forsyth of Tezpur may be quoted. He says:—"By the expression "reasonable comfort from the coolie point of view" I mean that he ought to have enough to fill his stomach with good wholesome food. He should have enough to buy clothes for himself and also have a little left for other luxuries. It is certainly desirable that a coolie should have some savings." That, gentlemen, is the opinion not of the Government but of a senior and well-known medical officer. When we as a Government reviewed this very careful Report, we gave special attention to the question of wages. You, Sir, have called pointed attention to the new factor introduced by the contemplated Trade Union Legislation. At the time when our Resolution was written, about two and a half years ago, little or nothing had been heard about Trade Union Legislation. Without thinking of that we said:—"The rise in prices has exceeded the rise in wages, and the Government of Assam feel that the employer would have done wisely to have taken advantage of the fat years and to have raised wages before the coolie began to feel the pinch of the lean years." What are the present years again? we said:—"The Committee advise that the District Sub-Committees should recommend what they consider to be a decent monthly or daily rate of wage, not a mere subsistence allowance but a wage that will suffice to keep a labourer in health and reasonable comfort with the possibility of saving a little. They consider moreover that this should be a wage which the average coolie can earn in a reasonable time, and that in fixing it no regard should be paid to *ticca* earnings by which it may be supplemented. The Government accept these recommendations. They of course recognise that economic factors must have full play. It is not possible to insist on all gardens in the same area having identical standards of task or wage. But what the Government desire is that the Sub-Committees should be authorised to propose a standard rate for their districts, and to bring to the notice of Agents and Directors and the Association any refusal on the part of individual concerns to fall in with their suggestions. The Governor in Council believes with the Committee that managers are a reasonable and fair-minded body of men, and is convinced that the Sub-Committees are in the best position to say what is a fair task for a decent living wage." I do not know whether the

Sub-Committees have definitely undertaken this task. My impression is that they have not. But whether the decision is taken formally or informally, whether there is to be a decision for small defined areas or each manager is to decide for himself, there is, as you, Sir, have stated, no getting away from the problem. The Committee wisely did not attempt to lay down what is a reasonable wage or a reasonable task. We all know that conditions vary from garden to garden, and that no one but the manager really knows what the local conditions are. This being so, I should like, Sir, to support your plea that all possible authority and discretion should be allowed to the man on the spot. Lastly I want to read to you the concluding words of this Resolution, written as I said two and a half years ago. "Lastly the Committee refer to the competition which confronts the industry. They recognise that there are economic limits to the wage bill which it can pay, but they wisely remind employers that the garden coolie has begun to be moved, if yet but vaguely, by the same awakening and aspirations as the rest of the world of labour. The Governor-in-Council, as must every well-wisher of the Industry to which the province owes so much, trusts that these words will go home; and that up to the full limits of the economic capacity of the industry effort will be made to meet the changing conditions of the present day." The plain issue, it seems to me, is whether the employers will meet the changed conditions before the situation becomes acute, or each concession must be wrung from them. The consequences each man can estimate for himself.

You mentioned, Sir, but did not comment on the fact that between the family earnings in the Surma Valley and those in the Assam Valley there is on the published figures a difference of some six rupees a month. We as a Government would be glad to know the reason for this difference. There used to be a very marked difference between the average price realised by Surma Valley teas and the price that Assam Valley teas fetched. I have figures here but need not trouble you with them. I want to ask what the difference is now. We all know how the price of tea now compares with what it was ten, fifteen or twenty years ago. Has the advantage that the Assam Valley teas enjoyed been maintained in proportion? You know the answer better than I do.

Is there any longer any real reason why the family earnings of coolies here should be so far behind what they are in the other Valley?

So far I have dealt with one aspect of the wage question, whether present earnings are or are not sufficient. There is another aspect and it is to that aspect that the extract you read from our latest Resolution more particularly referred. Is it wise to continue on the old lines and to put forward as a wage the few annas given for a *hasira*. You all understand what is meant. We officials who have served for years in Assam understand what is meant, but I question whether Mr. Austin who comes from the Madras Presidency knew what all this means until a few months ago. No one outside the province without personal experience of tea gardens can avoid being misled by the way in which your wages are exhibited. I preached on this subject to the Sister Branch at Jorhat in November. I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the I. T. A. in Calcutta last month and put my views before them. I should like, if I may, to put them very plainly before you here. What is meant by a wage? The term is one that is used all over the world. If you tell any one that the wage of a coolie is five or six or seven rupees a month he understands. If you tell him that if the coolie works a little longer he will earn *ticca* pay in addition you may give the impression of overtime. But when you go on to say that the coolie also gets cheap rice, free housing and medical attendance, etc., no one understands. We all know how actual earnings exceed the nominal wage, but so long as you speak only of wages and ignore earnings there must be misunderstandings. Would it not be possible to say that a fair day's work, whether that be six or seven or eight hours, would earn a wage of ten or eleven or twelve annas? Would it not, as the Chairman has said, be to the interests of the industry to pay to the coolie a wage sufficiently high to enable perquisites to disappear? He could then for instance afford to buy his rice at cost price instead of at concession rates. The industry at present wants labour more than any thing else. Other industries are also in want of labour. Competition gets keener and keener every year. Other industries put forward tempting wages in their advertisements. The planter sets out the conditions on the gardens in the very worst light possible.

This view I believe, to be held by the Chairman of the Labour Board who comes from the Madras Presidency, which we hope will yet turn out to be a very valuable recruiting ground for the Tea Industry.

You spoke of the Trade Union Bill. The subject is a most important one. I imagine that few thoughtful men, certainly not you, Sir, would wish to prevent for all time the formation of trade unions in India or their regulation and control by well conceived legislation. But every one must sympathise with your desire that progress should be gradual. We have as a Government pointed out the peculiar conditions of Assam.

You mentioned the repeal of Act XIII, and I need only say that we welcome the decision of the Industry not to ask for any measure to take its place.

On the subject of tea pilfering you spoke forcibly, but to this, I take no exception. I recognise that now-a-days I am paid to hear forcible criticisms, and though you said that the present condition of affairs is disgraceful I decline to be crushed. From what you said it is clear that different methods of accounting for manufactured tea prevail. The amount of tea that the reports show to have been stolen in the Dibrugarh district is indeed surprising. I fancy no one was more surprised than the Managers themselves. I may have misunderstood the position, but was certainly under the impression that in some factories at least, while there is no shortage in the estimated amount of tea manufactured, there is a surplus which dishonest people are able to appropriate. At all events I assure you that these thefts are engaging our earnest attention. We intend as soon as the manufacturing season begins to institute special police enquiries, but such information as we have got shows that in the other Valley at all events the system of accounting for manufactured tea is not universally perfect. You spoke of the necessity of having an Act passed on the lines of the Madras Coffee Stealing Act. We have already considered that suggestion. You know better than does any one else here, the difficulty of getting such an Act through our Legislative Council, but this consideration would not necessarily deter us from making the attempt. Only we must first be assured that all possible precautions against theft have already been taken and

that the methods of manufacture, accounting and despatch afford no easy opportunity to the dishonest. I do not think that the Assam Valley Branch at all events would claim that their methods have reached this standard.

Your words on the subject of illegal recruitment will, I am sure, be taken to heart. It was my practice as Commissioner (and I know it is the practice of the present Commissioner also) when such incidents happened to report the offender and the details of his offence to your Association, knowing that suitable action would be taken.

We as a Government are grateful to you for what you have said on the subject of the repatriation of coolies. We are in no wise ashamed of what we did. There is no law under which we can repatriate coolies and charge the cost to the employer unless it is definitely proved that they were induced to immigrate by fraud or misrepresentation. All our enquiries about those labourers from the Ceded Districts of the Madras Presidency who last year left the Assam Valley gardens for which they were recruited, failed to establish a single case of fraud or misrepresentation. We had to intervene on grounds of humanity, nor could we ignore the best interests of the Industry. Will any one suggest that it would be a good advertisement for the tea gardens to have large parties of men, women and children tramping along the roads, falling out by the way and creating a lamentable impression among the people, not only of their own districts but of every district through which they passed? The instructions that we issued say clearly that we do not recognise the claim of an able-bodied labourer who has come of his own free will to work on a garden and leaves it without good reason to be repatriated. Our Officers have been told to do all in their power to discourage the idea that we will intervene, and to let it be known that they are not to intervene, on behalf of such people until circumstances such as for instance an imminent outbreak of sickness absolutely compel this course. We of necessity leave a certain discretion to the Deputy Commissioner. Sometimes misguided coolies can be allowed to march long distances. You spoke of parties marching from Dibrugarh to Chaparmukh. Sometimes the possibility of disturbing hitherto undisturbed areas

might make intervention at an earlier stage necessary. But you may rest assured that no encouragement has been given, or will be given to such coolies to go away. And as regards the question of cost I take the opportunity of once more acknowledging gratefully the action of the Indian Tea Association. The entire cost of repatriation is being borne by the Tea Industry, and not a rupee on any account has been charged to the revenues of the province.

With your remarks on the price of petrol, I am in the most hearty agreement. I am in a small way a consumer of petrol myself. As a member of the Government I have tried for some time to ascertain why the cost in the country of production should be what it is. I have singularly and entirely failed to get an explanation which I can truthfully call convincing. A year or two ago, a member of the Legislative Council expressed himself somewhat freely on the subject of the price of petrol. I noticed with interest a few months later that at the annual meeting of the Burmah Oil Co., the Chairman commented at considerable length on these remarks. It is true he called the member ill-informed and said how wrong he was to say such things, but the mere fact that the remarks attracted the attention of the Chairman may encourage you to ventilate the matter again in the Council.

You criticised the action of the Government in the matter of the supply of cholera treatments and following well established practice blamed the Finance Member for not finding the money required. I want in the first place to say that the decision was not that of the Finance Department. Medical and Sanitation are subjects which are dealt with by the Minister. The Finance Department saw the decision of H. E. the Governor and his Minister and accepted it. I am not anxious to dispell any mistaken idea that the Minister does not desire to do everything in his power to prevent outbreaks of cholera. I spoke to him before I came down here and say on his behalf that he, as well as myself, the Commissioner and every other officer of Government, realises most gratefully the amount of medical relief rendered by managers and by the garden medical staff not only to their own labour force but to the surrounding village population also. If the correspondence has led any one to think otherwise, I beg that you will abandon any such idea altogether. We do

realise this to the full and we are grateful. The difficulty is simply that if we give cholera treatments free to any one body or to any one Local Board we cannot refuse to give it to any one who asks for it, and the cost would be prohibitive. We as a Government make no profit out of the sale of these treatments. We get them from the Central Laboratory at concession rates. We hand them over at these concession rates, charging in addition only postage and packing. The Minister authorised me to say that he is examining the question again, and that if he finds it possible still further to reduce the price and make things easier for the Boards that he will very gladly do so. He also asked me to say that his expert advisers tell him that inoculation for cholera is quite a new thing to the villagers, and that it would not be an easy matter to get villagers to submit to it universally. Then I am sure the doctors present will endorse this—while inoculating against cholera cannot be called a serious operation it is one which can be entrusted only to skilled hands. To deal with an outbreak in a single sub-division would entail a considerable increase in the medical staff. Extra men would have to be retained against a possible outbreak of cholera, because these outbreaks do not occur at stated periods nor as a rule is there any warning of when and where they are going to occur.

The only other thing that I want to do is to congratulate you on your representatives on the Legislative Council, Mr. Hobson and Mr. Dawson, and to thank them for their valuable services. We as a Government, and I as the Leader of the House can hardly speak too highly of the assistance they have given us, and I say this despite the well-known fact that they always criticise me and infrequently vote against me. Contrary to the general belief the merely making speeches and listening to them, a great deal is done in the lobbies and in the Committee rooms. To your representatives and to those of the Assam Valley Branch are largely due the happy relations that prevail between Indian and European members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I apologise for having inflicted so long a speech on you.

MR. J. E. WEBSTER, C.S., C.I.E., Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, rising, thanked the Chairman and the General

Committee on behalf of the guests for their invitation to this meeting. In reply to the Chairman's remarks on his departure, he hoped to come back to the district again, and further made reference to the assistance given by planters to Government in the Local Boards and the excellent relations existing between tea garden management, its labour and its neighbours in the Surma Valley.

MR. T. C. CRAWFORD, representative of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, rising, spoke at some length on the question of coolie wages, and emphasized the fact that whatever conclusion was come to by District Committees, the last word would be with the Directors of Companies. He urged the presentation of wage returns in a more intelligible form to critics, and referred to concessions, tea theft and recruiting which was becoming more involved owing to the demand for labour due to industrial development all over India.

MR. T. AUSTIN, I.C.S., Chairman; Assam Labour Board; then addressed the meeting as follows:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I wish to touch very briefly on one or two subjects; the most important of these as you have already heard, is wages. As Sir William Reid said I am acquainted with Madras and it is a fact that, in the newly opened District, people do not understand what a cooly is going to earn in Assam. I myself had no idea what *bazira* meant before I came up here. The Madras people are told that a cooly can get 4 or 5 or 6 annas a day, if he does a certain amount of work, and more if he does extra work. But they have different systems in Madras, and it is not understood how soon a cooly can earn the minimum and how easy it is for him to make extra pay. The important thing is for the recruit to know how many rupees he is going to get in his hands at the end of each week. It is not for me to suggest a remedy, but this is a problem that has to be tackled. Owing to indefiniteness on this point, the tea industry must suffer in competition with other industries. I believe that some of your gardens were slightly affected by last year's exodus of Madras coolies. I do not wish

to recapitulate the reasons for this; both the Madras Government and the Assam Government came to practically identical conclusions as the result of their separate investigations Mr. Crawford has just alluded to one of the chief reasons. But while I was touring the Madras Ceded Districts recently I noticed that sirdars were coming down with instructions to recruit as many coolies as possible, although they had been only 3 months on the garden; and among these were non-district sirdars. You know that Government has directed that sirdars of less than 6 months experience on a garden are to recruit only their own immediate relatives in the Ceded Districts. Nominally the Magistrate, who countersigns the sirdar's certificate is responsible for seeing that the Government's orders are obeyed, but his task will be made much easier if Managers will also observe these instructions. (The Ceded Districts in Madras are only four:—Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool and Cuddapah). In this same tour I was glad to see that there was now no propaganda against Assam in the villages, and that this was dying down even in taluk and district headquarters: this shows that the repatriated coolies had not been spreading bad reports. I should say that, every thing considered and allowing for this year's good crops, recruiting prospects in Madras are very satisfactory. There is no reason for a repetition of last year's trouble. This is all I wish to say, except to thank you for your invitation to me come here to-day.

MR. P. H. CARPENTER, Chief Officer of the Scientific Department, said:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

It is not my intention to discuss the annual report of the Scientific Department, for you will be able to study that as it is published in the Year Book of the Indian Tea Association. It is a somewhat lengthy report but contains, I think, some points of particular practical interest.

TOURING.

When speaking to you last year, I said that our touring programme had been arranged on an extended scale. It was in fact arranged so as to obtain the maximum touring capacity of

the Department. I am glad to be able to tell you that the whole of our programme was carried out. I do not, however, know whether it will be possible to maintain such a very large amount of touring in other years. We are, however, trying to do so in 1925. The basis of the scheme is that every sub-district shall receive a visit from a Scientific Officer once in two years.

DISEASES.

A considerable amount of work has been done in regard to diseases of the tea bush during the past year. The Mycological Branch has examined some 500 different specimens. These diseases appear to be common and prevalent throughout the tea districts of North-East India. In some districts, of course, they are far more serious than in others. It is hoped that by Managers sending specimens to us for a report that they will thus be able to recognise an outbreak of these diseases when in their initial stages, for it is then that practical remedies can be adopted. When the diseases are widespread it is a very lengthy business to obtain control over them, and consequently there is a large amount of damage done to the tea before they can be checked.

In all these matters the state and condition of the tea bush itself plays a very important part, and whatsoever will affect the condition of the bush such as manuring, pruning, plucking; etc.; must receive careful attention. There is no doubt that in the case of certainly some of the common diseases that the correct manurial treatment does materially help to control the disease.

I think that the emphasis that this receives during the Lecture Courses at Tocklai and the visual demonstrations of the various diseases and of the various effect of different treatment to the bush has been largely responsible for the success of the Lecture Courses which again were fully attended.

FIELD EXPENSES.

Visitors to Tocklai must be struck with the very great difference between the different plots of tea growing as the result of different forms of treatment. It, however, is often said to me that it is all very well to obtain these results but that they only apply to Tocklai and to that particular type of soil. Whilst

I admit that in some cases this is so, yet in many cases and particularly those affecting what may be termed fundamental factors the results of the experiments at Tocklai are of undoubted value when considered in connection with other types of soil. On the other hand I think a visit to Tocklai ought to stimulate Managers of gardens to do their utmost to carry out with our assistance experiments on their own particular soils—many are being carried out. But when one adds up the total number of gardens carrying out field experiments one finds that the number so obtained represents very small minority of the tea gardens. We are always ready to help managers in carrying out these field experiments and to interpret to the best of our ability the results obtained.

I hope, Gentlemen, that you will all carefully consider this question and as many of you as can will carry out plot experiments even if it is only a few plots. It is the surest and most certain method of obtaining real information in regard to your own particular garden.

DROUGHT.

I should like, while I have this opportunity, to refer to an article that appeared in the Quarterly Journal of this year—Part III—"On the control of Soil Moisture." This is a matter that is of particular interest to this Valley that so often suffers severely from drought conditions. This year, of course, such conditions are reduced to a minimum but for all that there is still time for drought effects to become manifest. Last year, I had the opportunity, which I took, of observing the effects of drought in Ranchi. This was of particular interest since the Ranchi district suffers more severely in this respect than any of the other tea districts, and there were one or two points that were particularly in evidence at the time when I visited that district, namely just at the commencement of the monsoon and before the bush had had any opportunity of recovering from the drought. One of the first things noticed was that bushes out in the open away from trees appeared to suffer very much more severely than bushes in the neighbourhood of any trees; also that on those areas where *Boga medeloa* was being grown the tea did not appear to be

suffering like that in the open and a shallow rooting crop like Boga medeloa was growing quite vigorously. One could not help but draw certain conclusions from these observations and that was that the actual shortage of water in the soil was by no means the only factor at work, for if the tea was suffering from drought conditions then the still more shallow-rooting Boga medeloa would have suffered very much more but this was not so and the tea on the area where a greater demand was being made on the soil moisture was in a better condition than on those areas where no Boga medeloa was being grown.

In the other tea districts I have noticed somewhat similar effects although not so markedly. The tea in the open so often has the appearance of being much more diseased with leaf blights and much more anaemic in colour than tea under shade. This would rather seem to indicate that it is not so much the actual loss of soil moisture that has affected the question as the sun-light. It is possible that the direct rays of the sun at a time when the bush is enfeebled by an insufficient water supply may have a bad effect whereas the same tea protected from the direct rays of the sun would under the same soil moisture conditions be in a much healthier condition.

The suggestion seems to obtain some confirmation in the case of nurseries. Nurseries which are shaded often remain free from disease so long as the shade remains. So soon as the shade is removed and before there can be time for any very serious change in the soil moisture conditions, the plants show evidence of disease attack.

I do not offer these suggestions with any definiteness but rather as being suggestions that may stimulate your observations in this direction, and I shall be glad to learn your individual observations if you will at some time write to us, as the obtaining of the observations of a large number of men in droughted areas will undoubtedly help towards finding some sort of alleviation of the trouble.

PLUCKING.

There is one other matter about which I should like to make a few remarks and that is plucking. Those visiting Tocklai have

often remarked upon the system of plucking that we have adopted. The plucking experiments that we have conducted have up-to-date shown that the closest plucking that is to say leaving 6 ins. of new growth and then plucking to the jhanam from the commencement of the season has given us the greatest crop, and this system of plucking has been found to be of practical advantage in some gardens. It must, however, be adopted with caution. It is a severe form of plucking and can only be used on good tea. To pluck weakly bushes in this manner is merely asking for trouble.

I think our experiments at present indicate that the closest form of plucking that can be adopted commensurate with maintaining the bushes in a healthy condition is the one that will give maximum yields.

A close observation of the area plucked must be made so that at the first sign of any weakness developing in the bushes which often shows difference in the development of leaf diseases can be at once remedied by lighter plucking. If this is carefully done then I think closer forms of plucking could be adopted by managers in many instances but it must be clearly understood that they must regulate this according to the particular areas that have to be plucked. Whilst the system of plucking adopted at Tocklai may not be suitable in some other gardens yet a very slight modification of it may prove quite satisfactory for instance we leave 6 ins. of new growth, other gardens may find it necessary to leave 7 or 8 inches. An important point to bear in mind in plucking is that the closer that a bush can be plucked to the jhanam the better will be the quality of tea produced, and another important point is that such a system of plucking is very simple for the coolies. At the present time when the market demands a large crop of tea of good quality it is necessary to pluck as close and as severely as the condition of the bushes will allow. I particularly emphasise the condition of the bushes as this is one of the main factors. The form of plucking that may be quite suitable for one garden may not be suitable for a neighbouring garden. The difference in the condition of the tea being the determining factor.

MR. A. R. LEISHMAN, President, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce, rising, addressed the meeting as follows:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I am glad to have this opportunity of once more addressing you with reference to the position of Chittagong, as I know that the progress that our port is making must be of special interest to those amongst you who are Tea shippers from Chittagong by the "Clan" Line of Steamers, and speaking as "Clan" Line Agent, I feel sure that you will agree that we have given a very good service during the season that is just coming to an end.

In February of 1923 a deputation of representatives of the Chittagong Chamber, the Chittagong Port Commissioners and the Assam-Bengal Railway visited Delhi to put their case before Mr. (now Sir Charles) Innes and at this Conference Mr. Basil Allen represented the Government of Assam and Mr. James Donald the Government of Bengal. I represented both the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and the Chittagong Port Commissioners. We were then told that when our trade, as per Custom returns, attained a value of £10 millions sterling we would be taken over as a major port by the Government of India. This has now been slightly modified and Chittagong has to give proof of a trade of 15 crores for a period of 3 years in succession to attain her majority. Our trade this year has been so satisfactory that our Collector of Customs estimates that by the end of this financial year the desired total of 15 crores will be reached, and I can assure you that this is no mere flash in the pan. To further develop our trade more up-to-date and adequate dredging plant is imperative and the Government of India at any rate some time back appeared willing to advance to the Government of Bengal a sum of fifty lacs on reasonable terms for our port's needs, provided the Bengal Council pass a resolution applying for the money.

I can only hope that the necessary resolution will be passed in the near future and that Chittagong, the true geographical outlet of Eastern Bengal and Assam, will at last obtain the finance necessary to promote her to a major port and to make her competent to deal with deep-drafted steamers at all times of the year.

It is probable that the Bengal Council will be asked to agree to the loan in July of this year, but it is premature for me or anybody else to say anything definite until the financial position of the Bengal province is assured. More than that at present I cannot say.

I should like also to make allusion to the proposed Karimganj-Longai Railway Extension which is to be discussed, I understand, on the 28th instant in Shillong by the Assam Railway and Steamer Communication Board. The alignment as put forward by the Assam-Bengal Railway and supported by the Chargola Valley planters appears to be to the advantage of all communities and would go a long way to improve your communications. Mr. McIver, I understand, will represent your interests at the conference I have just alluded to, and I can only hope that the project will materialize.

The heavy shortage from tea invoices which have been occurring lately are much to be deplored and I know that the A. B. Railway authorities, both on line and at the Jetties; are making every effort to trace their source and to prevent their recurrence. I trust that all Tea Planters are also doing the same. We also on the steamer side and both at port of loading and at discharge are endeavouring to prevent further ullages of this nature. Unfortunately it is often the steamer that meets the claim even though we are morally certain that we are not actually responsible for the loss incurred, but as you know the "Clan" Line adhere to their principle to clean receipt for tea or not to accept it at all.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I should like to once more thank you for the kindness and hospitality that you are again extending to me.

The Annual General Meeting of the Chittagong Chamber take place on the 4th March, and I proceed home very shortly afterwards on seven months' leave. My Secretary has extended the usual formal invitation to your Branch of the Association to send a representative to attend this meeting, and I hope that one of you will be able to come along. I always feel that I have received so much more hospitality at the hands of the planting community than I have ever been able to repay, and I only wish

that for many reasons social and sporting amongst others, Assam and Chittagong were once more bound up in the same province as when we were intercourse of every kind was so much easier and more frequent.

You have just concluded a year of general progress and I trust that the Tea Industry has many more seasons of uninterrupted prosperity to look forward to.

MR. B. GUPTA addressed the Meeting as follows :—
MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Though conscious of my inability to lay before you properly the subject of labour difficulty, which we all feel, I rise to say a few words and hope this would not be considered uncalled for. In face of so many conferences and discussions made from time to time, it is needless for me to dwell upon the subject at any length. It would be sufficient to say that the matter has reached its climax and many are on the verge of collapse. Already several have suspended their new extensions and very many have reduced the cultivated areas by abandoning portions of their cultivations, which with proper care and cultivation would be made to bear good crops. It is apprehended that a time may sooner or later come when some of us would be compelled to shut up our gardens merely for want of adequate nay, even extremely insufficient number of labour. The harm caused by this shortage is simply incalculable. An inconsiderate section of the planting community tries to draw his supply from his neighbours and in consequence, enticement and stealing are raging very high in the present day. The labour rules agreement, I consider, is not sufficient protection for preventing these abuses as all attempts to locate the absconders are baffled by the defaulting parties. I had once before expressed my view on this point and need not reiterate it again. Gentlemen, I am afraid, I am going away from the main issue and now turn to the conference of the 25th July last held in Calcutta. In the year 1916, I had suggested the very means for overcoming recruiting difficulties but at that time it had not been considered expedient to follow them. Now I find, the Madras experiment has been more elastically tried than what I had suggested. Gentlemen, owing to the class of labourers we got from our newly recruiting areas in Madras, this experiment

has not proved quite a success. My submission now is that the experiment may be applied to our old recruiting Districts, where we know the labourers and also the labourers know us. There would always be agitation but the "agitators" forget that we have been feeding and clothing so many people whom they could not protect at the time of "Chargola exodus." They took them out of the garden and deserted them and ultimately ruined many of them. There is proof positive, that several of these wretched people finding no means of livelihood in their countries had to return to the garden which they had left at the instance of wily agitators, and after their return they became happy. These "agitators" place only the dark-side of the matter before the public but they knowingly suppress the fact that the labourers are more independent and much better off in the garden than their household servants. They feign to understand the difficulty of managing an affair which employs large number of workers. I must admit that we have not increased the coolie wages in proportion to the increase of the price of commodities, but if one would think about our position of 1920, I would say that we could not do better. We have experienced many ups and downs of our industry; but the present short rise in price of teas has made a point for the "agitators" to carry on their campaign against us. But they do not for a moment consider that the extraordinary concessions, they suggest, once granted, cannot be withdrawn. Who knows that the present home campaign would not bring down the tea price to the cost of production level? We have only recovered from the shock of 1920, and nothing more. Is it possible to manage things without subjecting the people concerned to some rules and discipline? Surely not. I know the unit system of determining the daily wages is now applied to nearly all the gardens and the tasks given are not heavy. The labourers can perform their tasks in about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 hours time and then they can, if they like, earn extra for which more favourable rates than the usual ones are given them as an encouragement. Now after completion of his task he is more free than his employer. As suggested by Mr. Milligan, respectable local residents may be employed with advantage for creating connection in our old recruiting districts. But Gentlemen, as I have said before we are on the verge of ruin and so no shaky

ground need deter us from following the right course; I would suggest that the sooner the experiment is extended to the old recruiting Districts the better, not only for the industry but for the wretched inhabitants of the districts as well. In case of failure we shall have to devise other means for our existence which is at stake. Now Gentlemen, I would not take any more of your time with the above few words I resume my seat.

Before closing the meeting the Chairman proposed a very cordial vote of thanks to Sir William Reid and Mr. T. C. Crawford, who had so kindly travelled such long distances to give us the benefit of their opinions. The Chairman also spoke of the unwillingness of some Directors to allow their men to do any thing to assist in the arduous duties of running this Branch of the Association, or to represent them on the Legislative Council, Labour Board, Tea Cess Committees, etc., and believed that unless more men of the right stamp were allowed to help it would be almost impossible to keep all these running properly in the future.

On the proposal of Mr. Alasdair Stuart, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman and members of the General Committee for the way in which they had looked after the interests of their members during the past year.

W. E. D. COOPER,
Secretary.

E. W. HOBSON,
Chairman.

*List of members of the General Committee of the Surma
Valley Branch elected for the year 1924-25.*

Members.

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C., (*Chairman*).

MR. J. C. DAWSON, M.L.C., (*Vice-Chairman*)

" W. R. P. GUNNERY	...	...	<i>Chargola-Longai.</i>
" W. STEWART	...	...	} <i>Luckipur.</i>
" C. E. EWING	...	...
" A. B. BEDDOW	...	...	<i>Happy Valley.</i>
" J. MACKNIGHT	...	...	<i>North Cachar.</i>
" E. C. T. DODD	...	...	} <i>Chutla Bheel.</i>
" E. G. PETERS	...	...
" A. MCCREATH	...	...	} <i>Hailakandi.</i>
" D. PATERSON	...	...
" C. A. WILLIAMS	...	...	} <i>Lungla-Juri-Doloi</i>
" J. REID	...	...
" H. L. BIRLEY	...	...	} <i>& North of Surma.</i>
" R. G. MATHEWSON	...	...
" H. F. DEMPSTER	...	...	} <i>Balisera.</i>
" C. S. CRESSWELL	...	...
		...	<i>Luskerpore.</i>

MR. W. E. D. COOPER, (*Secretary*).

Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Secretary of the Branch.

Mr. E. W. Hobson, M.L.C., was unanimously re-elected Chairman, and Mr. J. C. Dawson, M.L.C., Vice-Chairman of the Branch for the ensuing year.

Mr. W. E. D. Cooper was re-appointed Secretary.

Congratulation.

On the proposal of the Chairman, it was agreed to send Sir W. J. Reid, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., congratulation on his well earned Knighthood.

Proceedings.

The proceedings of last Meeting of the General Committee held on 28th May 1924, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation with the following alteration under the heading "The raising of the level of Saturakhal Bridge":—

"The word 'P. W. D.' should be substituted for the 'Local Board.'"

The Secretary was instructed to send apologies to the Chairman of the Silchar Local Board, on behalf of the Committee, that the responsibility for this bridge was put on that body instead of the P. W. D.

Accounts of the Branch.

The Accounts of the Branch for the half-year ending 30th June 1924, already circulated, were approved and passed.

Labour conditions in Assam—Coolie Marriages on Tea Gardens.

The following letter dated 27th May 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the above subject, having been previously circulated, was placed before the Meeting:—

No. 770-O., dated Calcutta the 27th May 1924.

From—THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,
To—THE SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Committee to invite the immediate attention of your Committee to the terms of the accompanying copies

of (1) a letter dated 16th May 1924 from Mr. D. S. Withers, M.L.C., labour representative on the Assam Legislative Council and (2) Circular No. 14, dated 26th May 1924, which is being issued by my Committee to Agency Houses here with interests in the Assam and Surma Valleys.

It will be noted from the circular that the custom, still in existence on some gardens in regard to coolie marriages on tea gardens, has been condemned by my Committee who desire to have the practice stopped at the earliest possible opportunity.

I am to urge upon your Committee the necessity for early and effective action being taken to put a stop to the practice now condemned, and to express the hope that no time will be lost in placing the fullest particulars and instructions in the hands of the responsible officials on the gardens.

I am sending a copy of this letter and of its enclosures to the Secretary, Assam Branch, by the mail carrying this mail. Copies of the fullest correspondence are being sent to the Indian Tea Association, London, by the first home going mail.

This Committee would record they emphatically condemn any interference in the matter of coolie marriages beyond that entailed by the granting of considerable sums of money, in order that such marriages may take place, which is inevitable; further that beyond this, they are not aware that such practices as referred to by Mr. Withers, are customary in this Valley.

Recruiting for Assam in the Madras Presidency.

Letter No. 942-O., dated 1st July 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, forwarding, for an expression of opinion of the Branch, copy of a draft letter and scheme which have been prepared by the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board, as the basis of a representation to be made by the industry to the Government of Assam, in connection with the increased recruiting facilities granted to the industry for recruiting labour for Assam tea estates in the Presidency of Madras, was laid on the table.

The scheme having been discussed at a Meeting in Calcutta, by their representatives Messrs. Hobson and Dawson, this Committee would confirm the views expressed there by their representatives and record that they are in agreement with a policy of professional recruiters under strict control in the Madras Presidency.

**Articles in the Public Press in connection with
recruiting matters.**

Letter No. 921-O., dated 28th June 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, forwarding copies of two articles in the above connection which had appeared in the public press. viz.:-

(1) Article under the heading "Surma Valley" which appeared in the issues of "Capital" of the 5th and 19th June 1924.

(2) Article under the heading "South Sylhet notes" which appeared on page 4 of the "Statesman" of 26th June, headed "some mean Tea Garden practices".

was considered by the Committee.

With reference to the article in the "Statesman" of 26th June, by a local correspondent, the Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee entirely repudiate the accusations made, re-payment of coolies, casting aspersions on a whole community, and to reply to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, that they suggest the question of bringing pressure to bear on local correspondents, is more one for their employers than for the General Committee of this Branch.

With reference to criticisms of the working of the Assam Labour Board and Tea Districts Labour Association, this Committee would record that their representatives on these bodies have their full confidence, and doubt if any good purpose can be served by taking notice of anonymous criticisms in the press which they deplore.

Dooars Recruiting Proposals.

Letter No. 1009-O, dated 21st July 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, asking the views of the Branch on a note of Dooars recruiting proposals, which has been prepared by the Tea Districts Labour Association, was placed before the Meeting.

After considerable discussion at which the Chairman explained his hands were rather tied by a resolution passed by this Committee at a Meeting held on the 15th November 1923, at a recent conference in Calcutta, it was agreed to rescind the resolution which reads as follows :—

" It was agreed that this Committee were of opinion the Dooars gardens should only be admitted under identical rules and regulations now in force for the Assam and Surma Valleys in the recruiting districts."

and to record that, in view of the new proposals, this Committee were now of opinion that it would be better in every way that the tea gardens of Northern Bengal work in harmony and alliance with Assam through the Tea Districts Labour Association, than to have a separate competitive organisation.

They have no further criticisms to make on the proposals beyond a reference to para. 6 of page 2. where they suggest no good case has been made out for payment of different rates, as far as Chota Nagpore and Santalia are concerned.

Labour Rules in Assam.

The Committee had before them a copy of letter dated 6th July 1924, addressed by Mr. T. A. Chalmers, M.L.A., to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, in the above connection.

While recognising the attitude of Mr. Chalmers, this Committee would record the suggestion made would hardly meet the situation in the Surma Valley, and the working of them appears impracticable.

Enticement of Coolies by the Dildarpur T. E.

Considered letter dated 25th June 1924, from Mr. D. Ferguson, with its enclosures in the above connection, and the Secretary's reply thereto was confirmed.

Sale of Tea Locally.

The following letter dated 5th July 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, forwarding copy of correspondence that had passed between themselves and the Indian Tea Cess Committee, on the subject of the sale of tea locally up-country, was laid on the table:—

No. 954-O., dated Calcutta, the 5th July 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,
To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to attach hereto copy of correspondence which has recently passed between this Committee and the Indian Tea Cess Committee on the subject of the sale of tea locally up-country.

2. You will notice from the Indian Tea Cess Committee's letter of 27th June that the suggestion put forward by that Committee is that the local Kyahs might be induced to put tea up into packets and to serve as distributors.

3. The Committee would be glad to have the opinion of your Branch in regard to the feasibility of this suggestion.

Letter No. 83-T. C., dated Calcutta, the 27th June 1924.

From—The Indian Tea Cess Committee.

To—The Indian Tea Association.

Sale of Tea in Assam.

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 1441-O., dated 30th November 1923, on the subject of the sale of tea locally in Assam.

2. The Executive Committee have made enquiries into this matter both as regards the sale of stolen tea and also with reference to the distribution of tea for consumption in the ordinary way. So far as the latter is concerned, they find that none of the large firms of distributors is willing to undertake to open out depots or shops or distributing agencies in Assam. The prospects there do not appear to be sufficiently attractive to make it worth while for these houses to take up the business.

3. In these circumstances it seems to the Executive Committee that probably the local Kyahs might be induced to put tea up into packets, and to serve as distributors. At the moment the Committee cannot express a definite opinion as to the feasibility of this plan. But they suggest that your Association should approach the Assam and Surma Valley Branches in regard to it, and should ascertain how it is regarded by the Managers. If the idea were favourably received, the Committee would be willing to assist with funds; and they would also be prepared to depute Capt. Moojen, or Mr. Harpur, to Assam temporarily to give such help as might be possible.

Perhaps your General Committee may be disposed to consider the possibility of establishing the work on more or less these lines, and to consult the Branches with reference to it.

Letter No. 871-O., dated Calcutta, the 17th June 1924.

From— The Indian Tea Association,

To— The Indian Tea Cess Committee.

I am directed by the Committee to refer you to my letter 1441-O., dated 30th November 1923, on the subject of the widespread thieving of tea locally, and the need for measures to be instituted to effectively check this trouble.

In that letter, I passed on to you advices which had been received from Assam, indicating that difficulties were being experienced in obtaining supplies of tea for the local market, and commending, *inter alia*, to the favourable consideration of your Committee, the suggestion of the Surma Valley Branch to open

depots in Cachar and Sylhet where tea drinking amongst Indians is apparently universal and their legitimate means of obtaining it limited.

As my Committee are of the opinion that action by your Committee, on the lines of the Surma Valley Branch suggestion, would not only supply the local demand, but would, at the same time, help greatly to reduce the sale of tea waste for human consumption. I am to express the hope that your Committee will act on the suggestion and will favour me with their advices regarding the action taken.

Letter No. 1441-O., dated Calcutta, the 30th November 1923.

From—The Indian Tea Association,

To—The Indian Tea Cess Committee.

The Committee have for some time past been in correspondence with the Assam and Surma Valley Branches of the Association regarding difficulties which have been experienced in consequence of the widespread thieving of tea locally and measures designed to check this have been under consideration. In the course of the correspondence it has been urged that as most gardens are not allowed to sell tea locally it is very difficult to obtain supplies of tea for the local market, and I am directed to invite the attention of the Tea Cess Committee to two extracts from letters which have been received touching on the point.

2. The first extract is taken from a letter addressed by a Manager in Assam to his Calcutta Agents, and is as follows:—

If the Indian Tea Association had depots where tea could be bought by the dealers for the local market, or if gardens were authorised to sell locally it would be very possibly help to stop pilfering. If tea were easily procured, it would to a certain extent do away with the market for pilfered teas and consequently help to stop the pilfering of tea that now goes on. The price could be the same as Calcutta less freight and charges. So any garden that sold locally would lose nothing by doing so, and local people would get decent tea at a fair price.

3. The Second extract is from the Minutes of a recent meeting of the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch :—

Sales of Stolen Teas.

Resolution passed by the North and North-West Cachar in stolen teas. and to prevent the same being retailed in local bazaars. it was recommended by the Indian Tea Association some years ago, that all garden managers should give 'Certificate of Origin' to Indians purchasing teas locally. Is there any authority deputed by the Local Government. such as the Police to examine stocks of tea being retailed in the local bazaars, to compare them with the 'Certificate of Origin' and to cancel these certificates when the stock of tea covered by them is disposed of, or in any other way to prove *bond-fide* ownership ?"

With reference to the above, the General Committee consider from their past experience and that of their Branches that little or no help can be hoped for from Government in issuing "Certificate of Origin", or that such certificates would prove particularly effective, owing to the difficulty in identifying tea in a Court of Law. They do, however, consider a great necessity has arisen for a supply of good cheap tea to be made available in the Surma Valley, and make the suggestion that the Tea Cess Committee be asked to open depots in Cachar and Sylhet where tea drinking amongst Indians was universal, and their legitimate means of obtaining this limited.

4. The Committee would suggest that the Cess Committee might consider whether anything could be done along the lines suggested in these extracts with a view to making supplies of good tea available locally in Assam.

It being agreed that as there are no local Kyahs in the Surma Valley this Committee would suggest the Tea Cess Committee might arrange to put tea up in packets which are easily recognizable. Provided this arrangement can be made, the Secretary was instructed to ask Chairmen of District Committees to get in touch, if possible, with large shop-keepers who would act as distributors in headquarters such as—Silchar, Sylhet, Maulvibazar, Karinganaj, Hailakandi, Habiganj.

Pilfering of Tea.

The following letter No. 3758-60-F.M., dated 25th June 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, forwarding a copy of the report of the investigation, on the subject of the pilfering of tea, by the Criminal Investigation Department, having been circulated to all members of the Committee, was placed before the Meeting for discussion:—

No. 3758-60-F. M., dated Shillong the 25th June 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to address you on the subject of the pilfering of tea, and to forward for the information of your Association, a copy of the report of the investigation into this matter by the Criminal Investigation Department.

2. The report shows that there is an extensive traffic in stolen tea and that thefts are facilitated by conditions in the Calcutta warehouses, and to a still greater degree by the want of accurate accounting for leaf brought to the factory and by defects of control and management on certain gardens. The remedy for this state of affairs lies mainly in the hands of the industry itself and the Governor in Council confidently looks to the Tea Associations and to the Agents and Managers concerned to take all measures requisite for this purpose.

3. Suggestions have been made that the Local Government should undertake legislation on the lines of the Madras Coffee Stealing Prevention Act, Madras Act VIII of 1878, which would make the registration of all sales and transfers of tea in the tea districts compulsory and would put restrictions on the transit of tea except under a pass. Apart, however, from the inherent objections to legislation in restraint of free commerce it is practically certain that a Bill of this nature would meet with strong opposition from many quarters, and it would be difficult for Government to support it without proof that the industry had taken all reasonable steps to protect its own property and that the ordinary law of the land was still insufficient to combat the evil.

4. The steps to be taken to put a stop to the theft of tea in-transit in Calcutta, concern primarily the Government of Bengal and the Government of Assam only mention that it has been suggested that Section 544 of the Calcutta Police Act, which throws on the possessor the burden of proof as regards ownership of a commodity, might be applied to tea stock holders in Calcutta, who are the persons to whom finally all the stolen tea goes.

5. Copies of this letter and of the report have been sent to the Indian Tea Association and the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, and I am to suggest that the Tea Industry should give its careful consideration to the report, and that a joint report should in due course be sent advising Government as to what measures the Associations have taken, or are prepared to take, to protect their own interests and what further action, if any, they urge the Government to take.

6. I am to add that should your Association desire any spare copies of the report they will be supplied to you at the issue price.

The Secretary was instructed to ask for suggestions from the Assam Branch and from all District Committees of this Branch, also to enquire if Government would appoint a C. I. D. Officer to report confidentially to the General Committee of this Branch as to any stolen tea being sent out of the Surma Valley, as had been done in one district of Assam.

Cholera Epidemic in Cachar and Sylhet.

The following letter dated 20th June 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, together with a note from Dr. G. D. Madhok, on the above subject, having been circulated to all members of the Committee, was placed before the meeting for discussion :—

No. 892-O. dated Calcutta, the 20th June 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Your Committee are doubtless aware that cholera has been particularly severe this year in certain districts in Cachar and Sylhet.

In the Hailakandi district of Cachar, for instance, the scourge has made its appearance in epidemic form in the villages regularly for, certainly, the past five or six years, and it has invariably spread to the neighbouring tea gardens. This year, however, the outbreak has been of a particularly severe type in the Hailakandi district and according to statements by planters in the neighbourhood. "Manipuris have been dying off like flies".

The Local Government are very ready to send out men with serum for inoculation in the case of outbreaks of Anthrax and foot and mouth disease, but so far my Committee have not learnt that any steps, such as inoculation, have been taken by the Local Government, Health Department, to improve matters in the case of this regularly recurring epidemic of cholera. My Committee understand that the cost of the vaccine is about Rs. 3-8/- per tube and that one of these tubes is sufficient to inoculate between 30 to 40 patients. Cases of cholera occurring within two months of such injections are said to be very rare but, after that period, it is stated that a second injection is necessary.

So long as the disease is rampant in villages, it is obviously impossible to prevent it spreading to tea gardens, and no amount of energy on the part of Managers and tea garden Medical Officers can possibly prevent the labour forces on gardens becoming infected with the disease.

My Committee instruct me to request you to lay the foregoing serious state of affairs before the Local Government and ask for some definite assurance that, before next hot weather, some explicit and energetic action will be taken to combat the disease. Failing such an assurance from the Local Government, I am to suggest that full particulars be placed before the tea industry's representatives in the Assam Legislative Council, so that these gentlemen may bring the state of affairs to the notice of the Legislature for adequate attention to be given to this most important question.

Note on Cholera by Dr. G. D. Madhok, L.R.C.P.S. Etc.

This district was most severely smitten by cholera this year. An exceptionally severe and extensive epidemic occurred and was associated with a very high mortality nearly every garden in my

practice suffered and the infection was in every case imported from the neighbouring villages.

Prophylactic inoculations against cholera were started in the gardens to stamp out the disease, but as no such steps were taken by the authorities to combat the disease in the villages, communication with the infected centres was constantly maintained with the result the gardens used to get re-infected.

The spread of epidemic cholera always follows the accustomed routes of human intercourse and travel.

Energetic and prompt measures should therefore be taken to deal with the epidemic in the infected villages so as to decrease the chance of the transfer of the infection to the Tea Estates from infected centres.

The insanitary conditions which prevail in the villages are well known to the Government and with a view to preventing a recurrence of such epidemics protective inoculation and systematic chlorination of water supplies may be suggested.

I take this opportunity of remarking that cholera vaccine was not promptly supplied by the Pasteur Institute, Shillong; considerable delay occurred on several occasions and some steps should be taken to ensure a prompt supply in future.

The Secretary was directed to record that this Committee, while completely in agreement with the views stated above, and recognising the inadequate staff at the disposal of the Local Government for inoculation on a large scale, the difficulty in getting villagers to be inoculated, and the necessity for slowly educating them to the value of such inoculation, would suggest that vaccine should be supplied free to Managers of gardens who will consent to allow their Doctor Babus to inoculate villagers in their neighbourhood, as a step in the right direction.

In this connection, this Committee would again refer to the suggestion made as recorded in the Minutes of a Meeting held on 24th September 1923, that one large agency house, or group of gardens, in Cachar and one in Sylhet, should undertake the erection of a cold storage plant, where vaccine might be kept and

retailed to other gardens in case of emergency, or supply ice to enable other gardens to keep their own vaccines.

Pasteur Institute Committee.

Letter No. 2855-59-L.S.G., dated 30th July 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, on the subject of the reconstitution of a Committee for the management of the Pasteur Institute at Shillong, asking the Branch to nominate a member to serve on the Committee as representing the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, was laid on the table.

The Chairman, being nominated to serve on this Committee, referred to the work of this Institute, which he believed, would be seriously curtailed in the near future, if more funds were not forthcoming, and deplored the policy of subscribing only to Bengal, when it is to the Assam Government we must go for assistance in time of trouble. It was unanimously agreed that more use might be made of this excellent institution if periodical visits were paid to it by European and Indian Medical Officers from the tea districts, as a matter of routine.

Enquiry into the causes of Malaria.

The following letter dated 4th June 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, together with its enclosures, on the above subject, was ordered to be published in the proceedings:—

Letter No. 797-O, dated Calcutta the 4th June 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Enquiry into the causes of Malaria.

With reference to the copy of letter which accompanied my letter No. 1442-O, dated 30th November 1923, and to your letter dated the 4th December 1923, in connection therewith, I am directed to hand you the accompanying copy of a further letter No. 2380, dated 21st May 1924, from the Director, School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Calcutta, together with copies of the correspondence forwarded therewith.

My Committee are publishing the Director's further letter together with the letter referred to therein, in the proceedings of 27th May 1924, and I am to request you to be good enough to give similar publicity to the correspondence in your Branch proceedings.

Letter No. 2380, dated Calcutta, the 21st May 1924.

From--The DIRECTOR, School of Tropical Medical and Hygiene, Calcutta,

To--The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

From letters written by the Medical Officers of the Longai Valley Medical Association, Sylhet, and Nakachari, Assam, to some of our men working on the Malarial survey of Assam, it would appear that our No. 4879, dated the 22nd November 1923 to you has not reached you. I am therefore sending herewith a copy of it and would request that you will very kindly circularize all your Managers and Medical Officers to be so good as to give our men the assistance desired.

Letter dated 24th April 1924.

From--The MEDICAL OFFICER, Longai Valley Medical Association.

To--

I am in receipt of your letter of 31st instant. I have heard nothing from Dr. Strickland direct or from the Tea Association. On receipt of a communication from Dr. Strickland on the subject, I shall be very pleased to help him or any of his staff in any way that I can but not otherwise.

Please notify me again before your intended visit and I will give you all details and help I can if I have in the meantime heard from Dr. Strickland.

Letter dated Nakachari, the 7th May 1924.

From--The MEDICAL OFFICER, Nakachari Assam,

To--The SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEON, Rangajan P. O., Assam,

I am in receipt of your letter dated the 3rd instant. Up to date no communication from Dr. Strickland, or from the Indian

Tea Association, on the matter you write about has reached me. Until I hear from Dr. Strickland on the subject with details, I can do nothing in the matter.

*Copy of letter No. 4879, dated 22nd November 1923 from the
Director, Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and
Hygiene, Calcutta, to the Secretary, Indian Tea
Association, Calcutta.*

Will you very kindly convey the thanks of the Staff of this Institution to all the Managers and Doctors of your tea gardens in Assam for the very kind manner in which they have received our Dr. Strickland and for all the help they have given him during his survey tour. It is proposed to leave a few men in Assam for a further period to collect certain information. These men will be given letters by Dr. Strickland stating their business and requirements. May I ask you to circularise all your Managers and Medical Officers to kindly give them all the assistance they can. The kind of assistance required will be :—

1. Access to the estates.
2. Aid of a compounder at times in the lines.
3. Transport by trolley, if available, to far distant lines in order to save time.
4. Provision of or access to, plans of estates.
5. Accommodation for not more than a week in any estate of a small room as office laboratory.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Empire Planters' Club in London.

The following letter dated 12th June 1924, from the General Secretary, Behar Planters' Association, on the above subject, was order to be recorded :—

Dated Motihari, the 12th June 1924.

From—The GENERAL SECRETARY, Behar Planters' Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I would point out that the "raison d'être" of the Club is to provide accommodation for planters when on leave and that only planters would be eligible for membership.

May I ask that this fact may be made known to your members together with your Committee's resolution.

Proposed Reduction of Pound Fine for Buffaloes in the Silchar Sub-Division

Letter No. 1809-G., dated 20th June 1924, from the Commissioner Surma Valley and Hill Division, stated that the Silchar Local Board at their meeting held on the 26th May 1924, resolved unanimously to reduce the pound fine for buffaloes in the Silchar Sub-Division, for Re. 1/- to annas - 8/-, the latter being the rate prevailing in the other plains Sub-Divisions of this province.

The Committee had no objection to raise to the proposal under the circumstances, the Silchar Local Board having already unanimously resolved to make the reduction.

The Assam Temperance Bill, 1924.

An expression of opinion on the above Bill having been asked for by the Government of Assam, the Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee consider that until such time as the franchise is extended to those whom this bill affects, it is premature and unpractical to introduce any such legislation.

Assam-Bengal Railway, Local Advisory Committee.

The following letter dated 16th July 1924, from Mr. D. Paterson, having been circulated, was brought under discussion:—

Dated the 16th July 1924.

From—The Member of the Assam-Bengal Railway Local
Advisory Committee, I. T. A. Re-presentative,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association

The next meeting of this Committee will take place on the
19th September 1924.

I would beg to request that the Chairmen of the District Committees be circularised, requesting them to inform me of any subject they wish me to bring to the notice of the above Committee, not later than the 31st August.

I am of the opinion that any subject brought to my notice should come from a District Committee Chairman, the Chairman of the Branch, or yourself.

Subjects brought to my notice by individuals are liable to be parochial in character and without sufficient authentication so that it is necessary to have them filtered through the District Chairman.

If these suggestions meet with your favour they might be brought to the notice of the Chairman of the Assam Branch too.

This Committee would record that they are entirely in agreement with the suggestions made by their representative that subjects of importance only should be brought to his notice through District Committees, and the Secretary was directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary, Assam Branch, for information of members of that Branch.

Confirmation of replies submitted.

The Committee confirmed the replies already submitted by the Secretary to the following letters:—

- (a) Letter No. 1236-37, dated 26th May 1924, from the Government of Assam, regarding the ventilation and humidification in Cotton Mills.
- (b) Letter No. 2428-34-G.J., dated 27th May 1924, from the Government of Assam, on the subject of the International Convention for the suppression of the circulation of and traffic in obscene publications.
- (c) Memo. No. 3968-71-F.M., dated 10th July from the Government of Assam, measures against the importation into India of inferior and injurious tea.

**Maternity Benefit Schemes for Women employed
in Factories and Mine.**

The following letter having been circulated to all members of the Committee, was now brought under discussion :—

Letter No. 1655-57-R., dated the 12th July 1924.

From—The UNDER SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam to refer to this Department letter No. 4455-57-R., dated the 12th December 1921, on the subject of maternity benefit schemes for women employed in factories and mines. At the instance of the Government of India, I am to request that you will be so good as to report the present position in this matter in the Tea Estates belonging to your Association.

I am to request that details of such schemes as are in operation may be furnished.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that pregnant women were not employed in the factory on tea gardens, such women being given light or nominal work elsewhere at full rates of pay, and a bonus at child-brith as a general rule.

District Committees.

Minutes of Meetings of the following District Committees, having been circulated, were ordered to be recorded :—

Luskerpore District Committee Meeting held on	23rd June 1924.
Chargola-Longai	" " " 26th " "
Chutla Bheel	" " " 28th " "
Lungla-Juri-Doloi & North of Surma	
District Committee Meeting held on	16th July "
Balisera District Committee Meeting held on	17th " "
Hailakandi	" " " 18th " "
Happy Valley	" " " 22nd " "
North Cachar	" " " 24th " "

Chargola-Longai District Committee.

With reference to the resolution on roads from the above district, this Committee would record that owing to inadequate funds supplied by the Local Boards in these days, and improved methods of transport, they consider Proprietors and Managing Agents should allow an estimate for purposes of assisting Local Board roads in the vicinity of tea gardens, and insist on Managers keeping these up.

North Cachar District Committee.

Mr. J. MacKnight brought up the question of the division of this district into two areas with another representative on the General Committee, but as it appeared members of the North and North-West Cachar District Committee were by no means unanimous in support of such a division, the Committee did not see that anything could be done, unless the proposals had the support of the entire District Committee.

Unremunerative Post Offices.

The following letter No. A-98, dated 25th July 1924, from the Superintendent of Post Offices, Cachar Division, having been circulated to all members of the General Committee, was laid on the table:—

From—The SUPERINTEND of Post Offices, Cachar Division, Silchar,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have the honour to refer you to your letter dated the 26th March 1924, and to say that as a result of further review the post offices named in the margin only are found to be working at a loss. The income of a post office is arrived at by taking into account certain percentage of the value of all postage stamps borne by all classes of articles, postage collected on unpaid or insufficiently paid articles

1. ROSEKANDI P. O.—

	Rs.
Monthly Income	79-7-3
" Cost	127-0-0
" Deficit	47-8-9

2. KALIBARIBAZAR P. O.—

Monthly Income	50-9-6
" Cost	<u>69-0-0</u>
" Deficit	18-6-6

3. DAMCHERRA P. O.—

Monthly Income	14-11-6
" Cost	<u>32-0-0</u>
" Deficit	17-4-6

4. LALA P. O.—

Monthly Income	57-7-0
" Cost	<u>92-0-0</u>
" Deficit	34-9-0

posted at the office or delivered by the office, and the total value of money-orders. In the case of a combined Post and Telegraph Office the number of messages handled by the office for a certain period and the revenue derived therefrom is taken into account. By calculating in the aforesaid manner if it is found that the monthly income of a certain post office is Rs. 100/- while the cost for maintaining the same with the following establishments:—

Average cost:—

1 Sub-Postmaster	...	Rs. 82/-
1 Postman	...	Rs. 19/-
1 Runner	...	Rs. 13/-
Contingency	...	Rs. 5/-
Fixed Addition	...	Rs. 5/-

Rs. 124/-

amounts to Rs. 124/-, the office is said to be working at a loss of Rs. 24/- per mensem. The losses shown in the case of the offices named in the margin are monthly losses and unless a monthly contribution equal to the deficit is forthcoming till such time the offices become self-supporting, the status of the office will be reduced and in some case the office itself will have to be closed.

I beg further to say that the question whether a post office is working at a loss or not is decided on its own income irrespective of the fact that other post offices in the districts are showing profits, and the question of retention of a post office is decided under the rules of the Department on its own merits.

I beg you will kindly address the Managers of the tea gardens in whose interest the offices named above are maintained, regarding monthly contribution equal to the deficit noted against each and intimate the result as early as possible.

The Secretary was instructed to record the above letter, in continuation of correspondence published in the Minutes of a

Meeting held on the 11th March 1924, also to send copies of all this correspondence to the Postmaster-General, pointing out the somewhat arbitrary method of dealing with a question affecting others beside tea garden Managers, and the sudden drop in the number of unremunerative post offices in Cachar from 11 given in the previous correspondence to 4, which is not clearly explained.

The following notifications are published for information of all members of the Branch:—

Letter No. 1659-62-R., dated Shillong, the 12th July 1924.

From—The UNDER SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Revenue Department, Miscellaneous Branch,
To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam to refer to this Department letter No. 1294-97-R., dated the 31st May 1924, and to say that copies of the abstract of the Indian Factories Act and Rules in Hindi (in the Nagri character) are now available in the Secretariat Book Depot for sale at the price of 2 annas per copy.

I am now to request that you will be so good as to inform the owners of factories in tea gardens that copies of the abstract required by them may be obtained on application to the Officer in charge of the Secretariat Book Depot, Shillong.

Letter No. 1695-98-R., dated Shillong, the 19th July 1924.

From—The UNDER SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Revenue Department, Miscellaneous Branch,
To—The SECRETARY to the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam to request that you will be so good as to inform the boiler and factory owners in tea gardens that copies of the rules framed by the Government of India under section 32 of the Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923) required by them may be obtained from the Manager,

Central Publication Branch and Book Depot, 8 Hastings Street,
Calcutta, on payment of ¼/- annas per copy.

No. 1845-48-R., dated Shillong, the 5th August 1924.

From—The UNDER SECRETARY to the Government of
Assam, Revenue Department, Miscellaneous Branch,
To—The SECRETARY to the Surma Valley Branch of the
Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam to request that you will be so good as to inform the boiler and factory owners of tea gardens that copies of rules framed by this Government under section 33 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923) have been kept in stock in the Assam Secretariat Book Depot for sale at one anna per copy.

I am to say that copies of the rules required by the owners of boilers and factories may be obtained on application from the officer in charge of the Assam Secretariat Book Depot, Shillong.

From—The CHAIRMAN, Assam Labour Board.

To—The CHAIRMEN, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta,
Assam and Surma Valley Branches, Indian Tea
Association.

I have the honour to request that you will inform all members of your Association that a firm calling themselves the Economic Sirdari Recruiting and Forwarding Agency having an office at 29 Strand Road, Calcutta, are issuing a prospectus against which I desire to warn all concerned.

The prospectus indicates that recruiting will be done on the lines of Chapter 3 of Act VI and Section 90 of Act VI, both of which methods are illegal. The prospectus is signed by B. K. Banerjee, who is styled "Superintendent" of the Agency. He was formerly well known to the Assam Labour Board as a contractor who had done considerable business before the repeal of Chapter 3.

I desire to make it clear to all concerned that for an employer in Assam to have dealings with this Agency would be illegal.

NOTICE

Is hereby given that application for amendment of the Electoral Rolls for the Assam Legislative Council and the Indian Legislative Assembly will be received by the undersigned up to the 15th October in each year.

(Sd.) D. C. ROY,
*Extra Assistant Commissioner,
Silchar as Registering Authority.*

SHILCHAR.

Dated the 24th June 1924.

Before commencing the proceedings, the Secretary read the following letter from Sir W. J. Reid, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S.:—

BAILEY'S HOTEL,
London, S. W. 7.
23-9-24.

DEAR SIR,

Will you please convey to your General Committee my warmest thanks for their kind congratulations on the honour which has been conferred on me.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) W. J. REID.

The Chairman also referred again to the price of Petrol, which was approximately 2s. 6d. in the Surma Valley against 1s. 2d. in London, and hoped the agitation for reduction of this gross injustice would not be allowed to drop.

Proceedings.

The proceedings of last Meeting of the General Committee held on 12th August 1924, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

**Proposed Karimganj-Longai-Chargola Valley
Railway A. B. R.**

Several members of the Longai and Chargola Districts being present by invitation, Mr. Dawson spoke strongly against the proposed railway, as being a menace to the low-lying tea in the Longai Valley, and Mr. Gunnery equally strongly in favour of it owing to the poor state of the waterways and the probability of the shipment of tea and stores by water from the Chargola Valley being confined to four months in the year in the near future.

In view of the conflicting interests, the Chairman of the Branch was nominated to serve on a Committee called by the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, to report on the sufficiency of the waterways on the proposed Karimganj-Longai-Chargola Railway.

Renewal of Passports.

Letter No. 1138-O., dated 1st September 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, together with a copy of letter dated 17th August 1924 they have received from a member of the Association, commenting on the difficulties under present Passport Regulations of a person in Assam securing a passport required at short notice, having been circulated to all members of the Committee, was laid on the table.

In view of the correspondence since published in the proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the subject, there appeared no necessity for any action on the part of this Committee.

Clearance of Snags from the Rukni River.

Correspondence that has passed between Mr. H. Emblen, Manager of the Poloi Tea Estate, the Executive Engineer, P. W. D., Cachar Division, and the Chairman, Silchar Local Board, in connection with the clearance of snags from the Rukni River, forwarded by Mr. Emblen, having been circulated to all members of the Committee, was placed before the Meeting for discussion.

The Committee suggested that Mr. Emblen should get into correspondence with the Vice-Chairman, who would be pleased to inform him as to how a similar difficulty had been very successfully dealt with by Managers in the Longai district.

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association—Assam Branch.

The following correspondence having been previously circulated, the Secretary was instructed to reply to letter No. 1137-O. of the 25th August from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, that this Committee still consider a subscription of Rs. 5/- per 100 acres, would meet the situation, and are not prepared to recommend any guarantee of losses:—

Letter No. 1137-O. dated Calcutta, the 25th August 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

The Committee have received from the Honorary Secretary, Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, an endorsement of a letter dated 8th August addressed by him to the Assam and Surma Valley Branches, putting forward certain proposals in regard to the supply of additional nursing sisters to the two Valleys and asking the decision of the two Branch Associations in regard to these proposals.

2. I am to ask you to furnish the Committee of this Association with the views of your Branch in regard to the position.

Letter dated Shillong, the 8th August 1924.

From—The HONORARY SECRETARY, Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to the correspondence resting with your letter dated 26th March 1924, regarding the proposed increase in the nursing staff for this province, I am directed to forward herewith for your consideration, a copy of the Minutes of a Committee Meeting held in Shillong on 5th August 1924.

To sum up briefly, the position is as follows:—

The proposal is to increase the nursing staff by two sisters in each Valley, *i.e.*, four in all), and to provide the necessary revenue by altering the basis of tea garden subscriptions from a personal one to one based on acreage, the rate proposed being Rs. 5/- per 100 acres.

The most optimistic estimates as to the financial result of this shew that it would entail an annual deficit of nearly Rs. 5,000 - which my Association is not in a position to bear. It is, however, willing to undertake the scheme if the various branches of the Indian Tea Association concerned will guarantee to make up the deficit between them.

Alternatively, my Association is ready to make a start at once with one extra sister in each Valley, (*i.e.*, two additional to begin with), which increase it is estimated would be covered by the additional revenue obtained from the proposed revised system of assessment, and in which case the guarantee of the Indian Tea Association would be nominal only. After ascertaining the results of working with this staff, my Association would be in a position to estimate more accurately the effects of the full increase proposed, and would be able to submit its suggestions for the completion of the scheme, if still considered desirable.

I am therefore to request that the decision of your Branch may be communicated to me as early as possible, and in any case not later than 30th November 1924.

*Proceedings of the meeting of the Committee of the Lady Minto's
Indian Nursing Association, Assam Branch, held
at the Office of the Inspector General of
Civil Hospitals, Assam, on
Tuesday, the 5th August
1924.*

PRESENT:

COLONEL C. H. BENSLEY, I.M.S., *President*.

MRS. BOTHAM.

MAJOR BABONON, I.M.S.

MISS CAMPBELL.

MR. W. D. SMILES, *Representative by A. V. D.*)

MR. G. E. SOAMES, I.C.S., *Second Secretary.*

MR. J. E. REID, I.P., *Honorary Treasurer.*

Mr. Smiles moved that the question of increasing the number of nurses in the two Valleys in return of a levy of Rs. 5/- per 100 acres from tea estates to provide for attendance on the staff and their families at subscriber's rates should be further considered.

The Committee were of opinion that the estimated receipts including fees and private subscriptions furnished by the Surma Valley Branch amounting to Rs. 35,500 - were unduly optimistic and that, even if realized, the receipts would not cover the expenditure of the whole Branch including the 4 additional Sisters proposed, which would amount to Rs. 40,000/- in round figures. The Committee unanimously decided that these figures should be placed before the Indian Tea Association and the two Branch Associations. The Committee could not ask the Central Association to increase the number of nurses unless they were in a position to satisfy the Central Association that there would be no loss. The Committee were prepared to adopt the scheme with one additional nurse in each Valley for the present until actuals were obtained showing the financial results after a year's working, or in the alternative would be prepared to recommend the full scheme of four additional nurses, if the Tea Association or the Branch Associations would guarantee any loss on the working.

The Committee further considered that any revised scheme should be introduced by 1st January 1925, and they hoped that the Association would be in a position to give their replies at the latest by 1st December 1924.

The Committee further agreed that the rate for non-subscribers should be increased to Rs. 30/- from 1st January 1925.

The Committee resolved that the Honorary Treasurer Accounts of the Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association and Lady Minto Shillong Nursing Home shall be transferred from the Planters' Stores & Agency Co., Ltd., Dibrugarh, to the Imperial Bank of India Branch at Dibrugarh.

The Committee considered the reply from the Assam Railways and Trading Co., Ltd., regarding the rate of subscription for their staff. The Committee resolved that in comparison with the amount paid by tea estates a charge of Rs. 10/- per head of all Europeans including wives and children would be the lowest charge which the Committee could accept, so as to entitle the Company to attendance on its staff and their families at the concession rate.

(*Sd.*) G. E. SOAMES,

*Honorary Secretary,
Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association,
Assam Branch.*

Cholera Epidemic in the Districts of Cachar and Sylhet.

The following correspondence having been previously circulated, was placed before the meeting for discussion:—

Letter No. 1166-O., dated Calcutta, the 8th September 1924.

From THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To THE SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 25th August incorporating an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the General Committee of your Branch held on 12th August. This extract refers to the letter dated 20th June addressed to you by this Association on the subject of the epidemics of cholera which frequently break out in districts of Cachar and Sylhet.

2. Your Branch Committee record that they are in agreement with the views set out in the letter from this Association but at the same time consider that, in view of the inadequate staff at the disposal of the Local Government to undertake inoculation on a large scale and the difficulty of getting the villagers to submit to inoculation, vaccines should be supplied free of cost to managers of gardens who would consent to allow their Doctor Babus to inoculate villagers in their neighbourhood. The Committee have considered this suggestion but are of the opinion that

the action suggested would be impracticable. It seems to the Committee that a Manager's business is only with his own labour force, and that it would be all that could be expected of a garden manager, if a sufficient supply of the necessary vaccines were available, that he should endeavour to have as many of his own labourers as possible inoculated. Inoculation of outside villagers appears to the Committee to be entirely a matter for Government to deal with. Government make it their business to provide an adequate veterinary staff to cope with outbreaks of diseases among cattle and other stock, and it seems to the Committee that they should be willing to take at least equally efficient steps to cope with outbreaks of cholera, etc., among the population.

3. In regard to the second part of the extract included in your letter, the Committee are issuing a circular to all Agency Houses with interests in Cachar and Sylhet, asking whether they would be prepared to support a scheme for the erection of a cold storage plant for the preservation of vaccines provided the cost of such plant were reasonable. I enclose for your information a copy of the circular being issued.

(Circular referred to).

No. 1167, dated Calcutta, the 8th September 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—ALL AGENCY houses with interests in Cachar & Sylhet.

I am directed to circulate to Agency Houses with interests in Cachar and Sylhet, copy of a letter dated 25th August from the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, and the reply dated 8th September made to the Surma Valley Branch by this Association.

2. With reference to the third paragraph of the letter addressed to the Branch by the Association, I am directed to ask you to let me know as early as possible whether you would be prepared to support a scheme for the erection of a cold storage plant for the preservation of vaccines. The proposal is that one such plant should be erected in Cachar and one in Sylhet. The erection of the plant might be carried out by one large Agency or group of gardens in each of these districts provided support from

the other Agency Houses in the district could be counted on. It is of course to be understood that support for the scheme would be conditional on the cost of the erection of the plant being found to be reasonable.

3. When the Committee have gained an idea of the extent of support which might be counted on, the question of cost will be gone into and of the arrangements to be made for the undertaking of the work necessary.

4. I am to ask that you should let me know at a very early date whether you would be prepared to support such a scheme.

*Copy of a letter dated 25th August 1924, from the Secretary,
Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, to the
Assistant Secretary, Indian Tea Association,
Calcutta.*

With reference to your letter No. 892-O. dated the 20th June 1924 on the above subject, which is being published in the proceedings of a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on 12th August, I am directed to forward for your information, the following extract from the minutes of that meeting:—

"The Secretary was directed to record that this Committee while completely in agreement with the views stated in the above letter, and recognising the inadequate staff at the disposal of the Local Government for inoculation on a large scale, the difficulty in getting villagers to be inoculated and the necessity for slowly educating them to the value of such inoculation, would suggest that vaccine should be supplied free to managers of gardens who will consent to allow their Doctor Babus to inoculate villagers in their neighbourhood, as a step in the right direction.

In this connection, this Committee would again refer to the suggestion made as recorded in the minutes of a meeting held on 24th September 1923, that one large agency house, or group of gardens in Cachar and one in Sylhet, should undertake the erection of a cold storage plant, where vaccines might be kept,

and retailed to other gardens in case of emergency, or supply ice to enable other gardens to keep their own vaccines."

*Letter dated 11th September 1924, from Messrs. John Smeal & Co.,
to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.*

I have been informed that there is a proposal on the part of your Branch of the Indian Tea Association to introduce an ice or refrigerating plant in order to store vaccines, etc., and I hasten to inform you that I have arranged for a two-ton ice making plant to be in commission here in Silchar at the beginning of the next hot season. I have no doubt this will meet all the requirements of the Indian Tea Association and save them the expense of an independent plant.

The Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee's suggestions that free vaccine be supplied to Managers willing to allow their Doctor Babus to inoculate neighbouring villagers was intended only as a protective measure for particular gardens, such application to be quite optional on the part of managers, who would apply for free vaccine through the Secretary of the Branch when required to inoculate villagers.

Further that they considered that advantage might be taken of Messrs. John Smeal & Co's ice plant for storage of vaccines for both Valleys and thus obviate the erection of two cold storage plants by Agency Houses.

The following suggestion made by Mr. J. M. Barry was laid on the table for consideration:—

"That in the event of any outbreak of infectious or contagious diseases on any garden in the Surma Valley, the manager of the garden on which the outbreak occurs, should instantly notify all managers, within a radius of 10 miles of his garden thus enabling them to take the necessary prophylactic measures."

The Committee considered the above suggestion excellent and trusted all managers would conform personally or through their Medical Officer.

**Maintenance of Primary Schools by
Employers of Labour.**

The following letter from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the above subject, was placed before the Meeting for consideration :—

Letter No. 1231-O., dated Calcutta, the 19th September 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

The Committee have noticed that a resolution has been passed in the Assam Legislative Council on the above subject in the following terms :—

“That this Council recommends to the Government to require employers of labour engaging 30 children or more under the age of 14 years in their estates, factories, mines, collieries, refineries, workshops, etc., to maintain one or more primary schools at their cost at such time and place and for such hours with such curriculum, and to request His Excellency to undertake the necessary legislation immediately.”

2. I am to ask what steps you are taking, or have under consideration in regard to the subject matter of this resolution.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee, though in favour of voluntary education on tea gardens, most of which have schools, consider that compulsory education confined to employees of private commercial concerns only, wrong in principle, and that such legislation should be opposed by their representatives on the Council. At the same time they would recommend managers of tea gardens to do all they can to encourage voluntary education.

**Pilfering of Tea in the Gardens or in Transit from
Gardens in Assam, and sale of Tea for Local
consumption.**

Various correspondence on the subject having been laid on the table, this Committee agreed to withdraw their suggestion

that a C. I. D. officer be appointed to report confidentially to the General Committee of this Branch, as to stolen tea being sent out of the Surma Valley, as the Local Government did not appear to favour this course. They awaited the arrival of the gentleman mentioned in the following letter with interest. Names of several likely distributors of tea for local consumption having been already collected :—

No. 217-T.C., dated Calcutta, the 17th September 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Cess Committee,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

In reply to your No, 1160-O., dated 6th September I am directed to say that the Executive Committee have considered the suggestion made by the Surma Valley Branch in their letter dated 25th August a copy of which you forward. The Cess Commissioner for India, Mr. John Harpur, will be returning to India in October, and the Committee think that it will be better for them to defer taking any further action in the matter of the sale of tea in Assam until his arrival. Their idea is that either he, or Captain Moojen, should then be deputed to Assam and to the Surma Valley to make enquiries, and to consult with the planters and local Associations on the subject. Concrete proposals might then be formulated, and these could be submitted to your Association, and to the Branch Associations, for consideration.

Labour Conditions in Assam.

The Committee considered letter No. 653-61-C., dated 17th September 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, forwarding the following extract from the pamphlet "Labour Conditions in Assam" recently published by Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A. :—

"But the worst effect of the labourers living on these vast estates, is that the employees are prevented from coming into contact with any outside influence. No outsider, however well-intentioned he may be can easily approach the labourers without making himself liable for prosecution for trespass, with the result that no agency for social, religious or educational work can

start its activities among the labourers without the permission of the managers of the gardens. No one can think of organizing unions. Most of the roads leading to the gardens, especially the residential quarters of the labourers, are private."

With regard to the above, the Committee unanimously adopted the following extract from the last meeting of the Chutla Bheel District Committee as a fair statement of the case:—

"That this meeting views with concern attempts being made by political agitators to gain access to the private property of tea estates. The coolies have no interest in politics. Padres are resident on most estates to attend to their religious wants. Their educational needs receive attention. They have free communication with the outside world as far as they wish. No Trades Union would have the smallest interest for them. We consider Mr. Joshi has no object in view but to upset the contented and well treated labour forces on tea estates and figure as their champion."

This Committee would add that the whole point is that coolies working on tea gardens very much prefer to live on private land, where they are well looked after, than to pay for a house elsewhere.

Maternity Benefit Schemes for Women Employed in Factories.

The following letter from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the above subject, having been circulated, was laid on the table:—

Letter No. 1077-O., dated Calcutta, the 8th August 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

The Committee have received from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce a request to be supplied with such information as is

available of schemes of maternity benefit in force for women employed in the tea industry. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce have been consulted in this matter by the Government of Bengal and the present enquiry from the Chamber is to enable them to give Government an idea of the extent to which maternity benefit schemes are already in force in tea industries.

2. I am to ask you to be good enough to let the Committee have a note which they could pass on to the Chamber giving a general idea of the extent to which such schemes are in force on tea gardens in the Surma Valley and the general plan of such schemes.

Various statistics having been collected on the subject proved that customs varied largely in different gardens, that maternity benefits included cash payments averaging Rs. 10/- to Rs. 12/-, generally speaking unlimited leave on pay, free food, milk, medical attendance and Baby-Shows with prizes for all.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce can assure the Government of Bengal that looking at the commercial aspect (which is not the case), and in view of the difficulty of obtaining labour, managers of tea gardens generally are fully alive to the advantage of treating mothers of children and pregnant women with the greatest liberality, and as evidence of this the Committee would append the following extract from a speech by Mr. W. A. Bain, who visited India last year, as an entirely unbiased and unasked for certificate:—

“Some of you have, I know, had the opportunity which I myself had of reading a note by a number of distinguished clergymen who formed part of the Mission of Help recently sent out by the Church of England to visit India, and who toured through the Assam tea districts. In this note they state that ‘every intelligent visitor to an Assam tea garden must be impressed by the obvious care shown by the Companies for the coolies employed on their estates’. They add that they “were particularly impressed by the humane and generous treatment of expectant mothers.’ By this

system of sparing these mothers from work and anxiety during the three months preceding and succeeding the birth of their children the Home Country has much to learn from the tea gardens of Assam."

This testimony is not surprising to us here who are aware of the conditions, but it may interest others outside this room, who may not be so well informed, to know that such a testimony was voluntarily given by a body of men not only entirely unconnected with the industry, but who would have been sure to have had a very jealous eye for the welfare of the native labour force.

Countersigning of Garden Sirdars' Certificates.

The following letter from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, forwarding a copy of orders that have been issued to Deputy Commissioners, regarding the countersigning of garden Sirdars' certificates, having been previously circulated, was placed before the meeting for consideration :—

Letter No. 5515-17-F.M., dated 25th September 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam, Finance Department, Immigration Branch.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to forward for your information a copy of the orders that have been issued to Deputy Commissioners regarding the countersigning of garden sirdars' certificates.

I am to explain that the orders in paragraphs 2 and 3 were issued without previous official consultation with your Association, in view of the urgency of the case, and the general agreement of the representatives of the industry in Shillong.

2. I am to ask you to be so good as to advise whether your Association are in favour of making the orders in paragraph 2 apply to recruitment generally in all parts of India. In the opinion of the Governor in Council, this would appear advisable, but he would be glad of the advice of your Association before passing orders.

Letter No. 5507-14 F, M., dated 25th September 1924,

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of
Assam, Finance Department, Immigration Branch.

To—All DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS of Plain Districts.

The attention of Government has again been drawn to the fact that Magistrates have countersigned garden Sirdars' certificates issued to people who are obviously not of the garden sirdars' class. I am therefore directed to invite your attention to Section 59 of Act VI of 1901 which defines the procedure to be adopted by Inspectors and Magistrates and to request that you will be so good as to see that the duties and responsibilities there placed on such officers are properly discharged. To enable the Magistrate to carry out his duties, he must have each sirdar produced before him.

2. In the case of recruitment from the ceded districts of the Madras Presidency, only coolies who have been at least 6 months on the garden should have their certificates countersigned, with the exception that a Sirdar proceeding to any of these districts to bring up only members of his immediate family may have this certificate countersigned if it is endorsed to the effect that he is authorised to assist only the members of his immediate family to emigrate.

3. At a conference held in Shillong with representatives of the tea industry it was agreed that for the present it was undesirable that any sirdar should be sent to any of the ceded districts except to bring up members of his immediate family.

Magistrates should point this out to Managers who propose to send down sirdars for general recruiting before countersigning their certificates.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee are in favour of making the orders in para. 2 apply to recruitment in all parts of India, and generally as the orders passed.

**Conditions of Life in Assam with reference to
Tea Garden Labour.**

The following correspondence on the above subject, having been previously circulated, were placed before the meeting :—

Letter No. 1214-O., dated Calcutta, the 17th September 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The ACTING CHAIRMAN, Assam Labour Board

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 453 dated 2nd September with enclosures. You ask whether the Association could furnish you with draft answers to 15 questions concerning conditions of garden labourers in Assam put by the Madras Government.

It is understood that in particular you wish a statement of the position in respect of question 15 which asks information regarding special punishments if any inflicted for labour offences.

The Association would summarise the position in this respect as follows :—

" Punishment implies that there is some contract or agreement for breach of which penalties may be inflicted. There is Act VI Contract. Some Act XIII agreements still exist. The punishments are provided in the agreement but only in very rare and extreme cases is recourse had to the penal provisions.

In general the industry relies on the influence, tact and personality of the manager for dealing with refractory coolies. The days of garden discipline enforced by regular punishments are gone. If the Manager fails the coolie simply walks off the garden. Where it seems desirable to do so a refractory coolie is repatriated. "

It is hoped this will give you the information you desire.

Labour Conditions in Assam.

Letter No. 453, from the Offg. Chairman, Assam Labour Board, to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

I have the honour to forward for your information copy of letter No. 2993-A-2, dated 29th August 1924, received from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Law (General) Department and copy of the enclosures thereto. I had received a very similar reference from Mr. Paddison, Commissioner of Labour in Madras, when in Shillong last month, to which I replied from the material at hand to the best of my ability. The reports then quoted were the Government of Assam Administration Reports 1921-22 and 1922-23, the Labour Enquiry Committee's Reports 1921-22, the Tea Culture Report 1923 and the Government Reports of Immigration Labour in Assam 1922-23. I also sent a brief note explanatory of the general conditions in Assam. In order to furnish the Government of Madras with details I thought that you would perhaps be kind enough to let me have draft answers to the 15 questions which are now put by them. With regard to their request for reports, blue books, etc., I was given to understand by the Madras Government that they have been furnished not only with copies of the Administration report but also with copy of the Labour Enquiry Committee's Report 1921-22. If you are able to let me have any other literature which may interest them concerning the subject raised, I shall be obliged.

Letter No. 2993-A-2, dated 29th August 1924.

From—The SECRETARY to the Government of Madras,

To—The CHAIRMAN of the Assam Labour Board, Calcutta.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council held this month members desired information about the conditions of life in Assam, in connection with the working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act. I am to attach a list showing the matters on which enquiries were made and to request that this Government may be furnished with reports, blue books, etc., containing information of the nature referred to. The Gazetteer and the Administration reports of the province are available in our library.

List showing matters on which enquiry were made :—

- 1) Number of tea gardens in Assam which employed coolies from Southern India.
- 2) The duration of the journey from Madras to Assam and the nature of the arrangements made for the journey.
- 3) The climate of Assam.
- 4) State of health of the emigrants.
- 5) The nature of work available to emigrants.
- 6) The hours of work generally prevalent and the days of rest allowed.
- 7) The wages per day or per month generally given for men, women, and children and the deductions if any made from them.
- 8) The arrangements made for housing and for treatment during illness.
- 9) The cost of living of labourers; whether rations are supplied to them and if so whether free of cost or on payment.
- 10) The amount of bonus given to the emigrants.
- 11) The amount of bonus paid to recruiting sirdars.
- 12) The conditions of repatriation.
- 13) The facilities available for education and the observance of religious rites.
- 14) The prospect of land being granted for cultivation and any other concessions, and
- 15) Special punishments if any, inflicted for labour offences.

Letter dated 11th October 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1304-O., dated the 2nd instant, together with copies of the

Letter No. 1214-O., dated 17th September 1924, from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, to the Chairman, Assam Labour Board.

Letter No. 453, dated *nil*, from the Offg. Chairman, Assam Labour Board, to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with enclosures copy of letter No. 2993-A-2, dated 29th August 1924, from the Secretary to the Government of Madras and enclosures.

marginally noted correspondence, to which I note a reply is urgently required. Copies of the correspondence are being circulated to all members

of the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, but there must be some considerable delay before any general replies can be submitted to the various questions, as conditions vary considerably in different districts and different gardens.

From such experience as I have had of Southern India coolies in the past, my replies to the questions asked would be as follows, but this can only be taken as a reply limited to my personal experience, which must be subsequently confirmed or amended at the next meeting of the General Committee:—

REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONS.

- (1) Statistics are being called for.
- (2) A week to 10 days; the Tea Districts Labour Association are in a better position to supply this information than this Branch.
- (3) Generally favourable except for four months of rain.
- (4) In South Sylhet, Southern India coolies do better than elsewhere, but such experience of these coolies as I have had in the Hailakandi Division of Cachar proved they could, with attention, do well there if prepared to work, which many are not.
- (5) Cultivation and plucking of tea with opportunities to improve their position as Factory workers, mistries, etc.
- (6) Four to five hours for hard manual work, and six to eight for lighter jobs; one leave day per week.
- (7) Generally in the Surma Valley at present a family of one man, one woman and one child should be able to earn round about Rs. 20/- per month.
- (8) Houses are provided, and there is a dispensary and hospital on practically all gardens supervised by a

European Medical officer. Patients and children are fed in hospitals free of charge.

- (9) The price of rice varies from Rs. 4/- to Rs. 6/- per maund; when there is any local shortage, or rates are high, this is supplied by the employer frequently at a loss.
- (10) Generally about Rs. 12/- per man, Rs. 10/- per woman and lesser sums to children for every 313 completed days of work.
- (11) Varies in different districts, generally between Rs. 5/- to Rs. 10/- per adult.
- (12) There is no general system, but coolies are usually sent home after a year or two, if there is any prospect of their returning with relatives, or they appear to wish to do so.
- (13) Most gardens have a school and leave is freely given for observance of religious rites, considerable sums being spent at the Durga Pujahs and for entertainment of coolies.
- (14) Most gardens in the Surma Valley, especially in Cachar, have large areas of rice land which coolies are encouraged to cultivate; there is also ample space, as a rule, for gardens near their houses. My own experience of Southern Indian coolies is that they take little advantage of these concessions, and are poor cultivators, with the result that most of the best land gets into the hands of other classes of coolies. Other concessions also include in many cases, free fishing in bhils on garden grants, free clothes to widows and mothers of large families, free milk and food supplied to children, drinking tea when at work; but these vary considerably in various districts and gardens. Advances are given to buy cattle, which are looked after by garden grazers when coolies are at work, also for marriages.

The Secretary's reply was confirmed and Chairmen of District Committees who had not done so, were asked to send in figures showing gardens employing Southern India coolies, as early as possible.

Repeal of Act XIII and certain other penal Acts and Provisions.

The following letter from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the above subject, was placed before the meeting for consideration :—

Letter No. 1317-O., dated Calcutta, the 4th October 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to invite your attention to the terms of the Workmen's Breach of Contract (Repealing) Act, 1924 published in Bill from in Part V of the *Gazette of India* dated 20th September 1924. I enclose a copy of the Bill for ready reference.

2. It is understood that the Bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly and I am to ask your Branch to consider the position arising from the repeal of Act XIII and the other enactments to be repealed by the Bill now under reference. The new Act comes into force, you will notice, on 1st April 1926.

3. When it was announced that Government intended to introduce a Bill to repeal Act XIII, etc., in the Assembly, Government also indicated that Local Governments would be in order, after the repeal of Act XIII, in passing separate legislation to protect employers should such protection appear to be necessary.

4. The question now is whether the tea industry should approach the Government of Assam to pass some sort of protective Act to restore to employers some of the protection which has been removed by the repeal of Act XIII. The feeling in the matter expressed by representatives of the Assam and Surma Valley Branches at a joint conference held in Calcutta on the 28th July 1923 was that some legislation was required by the industry. No further proceedings were taken in the matter in 1923, as it was

impossible to arrive at any conclusion as to what might be the attitude of the Government of Assam on the question in 1926.

*Extract from the "Gazette of India," Part V, dated Simla.
20th September 1924.*

The following Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 15th September 1924.

No. 29 of 1924.

A Bill to repeal certain enactments whereby breaches of contract by labourers are made punishable under the Criminal Law.

Where it is expedient to repeal certain enactments whereby breaches of contract by labourers are made punishable under the Criminal Law, it is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Workmen's Breach of Contract (Repealing) Act, 1924.

Short title & commencement.

2) It shall come into force on the first day of April 1926.

2. The enactments mentioned in the Schedule are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the fourth column thereof.

THE SCHEDULE. ENACTMENTS REPEALED. (See section 2).

Year.	No.	Short title.	Extent of repeal.
1859	XIII.	The Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, 1859.	The whole.
1860	XIV.	The Indian Penal Code.	Sections 490 and 492.
1897	XIV.	The Indian Short Titles Act, 1897.	So much of the Schedule as relates to the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, 1859.
1920	XII.	The Workmen's Breach of Contract (Amendment) Act, 1920.	The whole.
1920	XXXVIII	The Devolution Act, 1920.	So much of the First Schedule as relates to the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, 1859.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee consider any interference with the Indian Penal Code, as likely to produce a feeling of insecurity and drive capital out of this province; they believe any conclusion as to a new Act in place of Act XIII can only be come to in conjunction with representatives of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and the Assam Branch,

Inspection of Tea Factory Boilers.

The following correspondence on the above subject having been previously circulated, was laid on the table:—

No. 1232-O., dated Calcutta, the 19th September 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to send copies of two letters dated 29th May and 2nd September 1924, respectively, received from the Chief Inspector and Secretary to the Commissioner for the inspection of Boilers, Bengal.

2. With regard to the request made in the fourth paragraph of the Chief Inspector's letter of 29th May, perhaps you will take the necessary steps to give the Chief Inspector the information required.

Copy of letter No. L/3540, dated 2nd September 1924, from the Chief Inspector and Secretary to the Commissioners for the Inspection of Steam Boilers, Bengal, to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

I have the honour to invite a reference to para. 4 of my letter No. L/2114, dated the 29th May 1924, and to enquire if arrangements have been made with the Chairmen of the various districts, regarding the inspection of boilers.

Copy of letter No. L/2114, dated 29th May 1924, from the Chief Inspector and Secretary to the Commissioners for the Inspection of Steam Boilers, Bengal, to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 766-O. of the 26th May, regarding one of your member's

boilers which was condemned by an Inspector of this department on the 10th March 1924 just before the working season commenced.

You ask if it will not be possible for the Inspectors to commence immediately after the close of the manufacturing season and finish the work at a reasonable date before the next working season begins.

Regarding the beginning of the work, that will certainly be arranged for as soon as the boiler owners can be ready for the Inspectors to begin, but for the completion of the inspection work, I fear that owing to the short close season it will take my Inspectors every minute of the time to complete each district before the manufacturing season commences. In this connection, I would point out to your Association that in their correspondence with Government on the question of boiler inspection it was clearly stated that the close season was approximately six months and the working season six months, whereas I now find that in most cases the boilers are not laid off till December and are required again on or about the middle of March, this limited time puts a different complexion on the whole situation.

I would be glad if you could arrange with the Chairmen of the various districts to notify me the earliest possible date that boilers could be prepared for inspection and the most convenient part of each district from which the Inspectors could begin their work.

Regarding boilers which are condemned as unfit for working it is surely unreasonable to lay the responsibility on anyone else than the owner themselves as it would be obviously the right thing to do for owners to have their boilers overhauled and put in good condition immediately they are laid off after the working season closes, and there is an extremely wide margin between a boiler in good condition and one that it is necessary for an Inspector to condemn.

I would also be glad if boiler owners under your Association could be impressed with the necessity of having their boilers prepared for inspection as required by the Rules, this would prevent unnecessary delay in having inspections carried out: such delays were too common during the Inspectors' tours of the past spring.

As notices with full instructions are issued to all boiler owners beforehand such unpreparedness should not be unavoidable.

The Secretary was instructed to put the Chief Inspector of Boilers in touch with Chairmen of District Committees, and arrange a general tour programme for two Inspectors for Sylhet and one for Cachar, if possible. The Chairman trusted all members would give the Inspectors every possible assistance to facilitate their work and in getting round the district.

Constitution of the Branch.

Mr. W. K. Green, having put forward his suggestion for a division of North and North-West Cachar into two districts with separate Committees, necessitating alteration in the rules of the Branch, it was agreed that this question should be voted on at the next Meeting of the General Committee, after due notice to all members, also that a suggestion made by the Manager of Rukni that his and two other neighbouring gardens should become members of the Luckipur District Committee instead of the Chutla Bheel, as being more accessible, should be taken up at the same time.

Contribution in respect of unremunerative Post-Offices in the Surma Valley.

The following letter No. E-73., dated 6th September 1924, from the Deputy Postmaster-General, Shillong, on the above subject, having been previously circulated, was laid on the table and ordered to be recorded:—

From—The DEPUTY POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Assam Range,
Shillong.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 26th August 1924, and to say that the contribution in respect of unremunerative post offices, in the Surma Valley which was asked for by the Superintendent of Post Offices, Cachar Division, in accordance with the orders of the Director-General of

Posts and Telegraphs, is certainly not payable by a particular class of persons but by every body residing under the jurisdiction of a post office. The post offices having been considered as maintained chiefly in the interests of the tea garden Managers, the Superintendent of Post Offices addressed you in the matter and it was open to the Manager to consult other people in the locality and then to communicate the views to this department.

2. As regards the difference in the number of unremunerative post offices referred to in the Superintendent's letter, I beg to say that the proposals received from divisional officers are subject to careful examination in this office, and as a result of this examination, it was subsequently found that some of the offices named by the Superintendent of Post Offices had not actually been working at a loss and some were guaranteed combined offices in respect of which no contribution was necessary.

3. I am now having enquiries made with regard to the four offices noted below and shall intimate to you the result in due course :—

- 1) Rosekandi P. O.
- 2) Kalibaribazar P. O.
- 3) Damcherra P. O.
- 4) Lala P. O.

**Grant of further timber concession to the
Surma Valley Saw Mills.**

The following letter from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, on the above subject, was laid on the table and ordered to be recorded :—

No. 2172-R., dated the 2nd September 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of
Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam, to refer to your letter dated the 21st June 1924, with which was forwarded a copy of the opinion expressed by the General Committee at its meeting

of the 28th May 1924, on the subject of the grant of further timber concession to the Surma Valley Saw Mills.

2. In reply, I am to say that Messrs. Bird & Company, who are the successors in interest of the Surma Valley Saw Mills, Limited, applied for a transfer of the lease of these forest areas. Government recognised that Messrs. Bird & Company had been pioneers in the industry and had lost much capital in the enterprise. They have therefore decided to sanction a transfer of the lease to them but with very considerable modifications. The area to be covered by the lease will be confined to the Unclassed State Forests in the upper basin of the Katakhal excluding the Cachar and Lushai Hills Inner Line Reserve, the Kukicherra drainage area, and the basin of all streams north of the boundary of the Inner Line Reserve flowing into the Katakhal river on the East Bank. The period of the lease will expire in 1933 and the rates of royalty will be increased.

Illegal recruiting.

Letter No. 1074-O., dated 8th August 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, forwarding copy of certain papers which have been received from the Chairman, Assam Labour Board (in connection with a recent case of an offence under Act VI) having been previously circulated confidentially to all members of the Committee, was laid on the table. After some discussion, representatives on the Board having spoken on the subject matter, the Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee consider that when questions of importance come before the Assam Labour Board, the whole Board should be consulted before and not after a decision is come to.

Recruiting in the Madras Presidency.

Letter No. 1191-O., dated 10th September 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, forwarding copies of correspondence which passed between Mr. J. A. Milligan and Sir Arthur Knapp on the above subject, was laid on the table.

Proposed Legislation for the Investigation and Settlement of Trade Disputes.

Letter No. 1320-O., dated 9th October 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, together with its enclosures, asking for an expression of opinion on the above subject, having been circulated to all members of the Committee, was laid on the table.

This Committee would record that though they consider legislation of this type sound, the proposals are hardly suitable or particularly necessary for tea garden employees.

Proposed Trade Union Legislation for India.

The following letter from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, asking for an expression of opinion of the Branch on the above subject having been circulated, was laid on the table:—

Letter No. 1321-O., dated Calcutta, the 9th October 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to send you the accompanying copy of a letter No. L-925., dated 30th August 1924 which the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, have addressed to all Local Governments and Administrations together with copy of the Bill referred to in the letter, and to request you to be good enough to favour me with an expression of the views of your Committee on this proposed legislation by the 24th October 1924, if possible.

These papers have been received from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, who have expressed a desire to have my Committee's view by the 31st October, and my Committee would like to have your Committee's views before them before replying to the Chamber's request.

The Committee record that it was quite impossible for them to frame any reply at such short notice, they would, however, suggest strong objection should be taken to para. 17 (1), (2) of the proposed legislation; they consider such legislation unsuitable and useless

to agricultural labourers of the tea garden type, and merely an imitation of Western methods entirely lacking in sympathy or understanding of those they attempt to legislate for in the East.

Lantern Lecture on Mount Everest Expedition, 1924.

The following letter from Lt. Col. V. A. Haddick, on the above subject, was laid on the table:—

Dated 10th October 1924.

From—Lt. Col. V. A. Haddick, F.R.G.S., Darjeeling.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am writing to you as I have undertaken a lantern lecture tour in India with a view to assisting in the repayment of initial Expedition costs, which have been unavoidably heavy. I have already arranged for tours in the Dooars and in Assam, and Mr. E. S. Roffey, the Secretary of the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, has suggested that the members of your Association in the Surma Valley might also like to hear the Everest story and see the actual photographs from the Expedition. These photographs have been made into lantern slides, and tinted in natural colours as far as possible.

Should you consider that your members would be interested, I would be very glad to hear further from you. The particular points regarding which I am rather vague are, (a) whether electricity at 110 or 220 volts would be available for my lantern, (b) the number of days necessary for the completion of my proposed tour in the Surma Valley, and (c) whether any form of cinema machine would be available at any of the places in order to shew the film of the tractor party's journey along the Expedition route over the Himalaya. This film is available in addition to the complete Expedition record with slides.

As to dates, I could leave Calcutta for your district about the 7th January next, on my return from Rangoon.

I shall be very glad to hear from you to the above address, and to write to you again on receipt of a reply.

The rate of admission would be Rs. 5/- per seat.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that the proposed tour would be much appreciated in the Surma Valley if suitable arrangements could be made, and ask for further particulars of requirements.

Tea Districts Labour Association.

General discussion on the future of this body took place, and it was agreed to consult the Assam Branch as to their views on a proposal that the Association stand entirely on its own feet, separated from any Agency House and responsible to the Tea Association only.

Tea Districts Crop and Weather Report.

The Committee would record the following for the notice of all members, from the Chairman of the Hailakandi District Committee:—

“That the representatives of Agency Houses and private garden on the district Committee be asked by this Branch to submit to the Chairmen of the District Committees, a short report on crop, prospects and weather prevailing on the gardens which they represent. The report to reach the Chairmen not later than 28th of the month, from March to December.”

They would further add that members would be better advised in utilizing their District Committees than in ventilating grievances with reference to weather reports and other matters in the public Press.

Mr. A. M. Chalmers' Case.

Correspondence in a coolie dispute between the managers of Cutlacherra and Roopacherra, having been previously circulated, the Secretary was directed to reply that this Committee can only take cognisance of cases under the Labour Rules, when these have been duly complied with as laid down.

District Committees.

Minutes of Meetings of the following District Committees, having been previously circulated, were ordered to be recorded:—

Chargola-Longai District Committee meeting held on 25th September 1924.

Chutla Bheel District Committee meeting held on 11th October 1924.

Indian Factories Act:

The following notification is published for information of all members of the Branch:—

No. 2328-31-R., dated Shillong, the 20th September 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Revenue Department, Miscellaneous Branch.

To—The SECRETARY to the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to communicate the following orders of the Governor in Council on the application of the Indian Factories Act to clerks, time-keepers, watchmen, etc., in factories:—

- (1) Clerks engaged in office work are not regarded as within the Act, but clerks employed in weighing, measuring, checking and entering goods, etc., in department of the factory or workshop, whose work must necessarily be carried out in proximity to the manufacturing process, are regarded as employed in the factory or workshop since they are engaged on "a kind of work incidental to or connected with the manufacturing process or handicraft or connected with the article made or otherwise the subject of the manufacturing process or handicraft therein.
- (2) Time-keepers and watchmen are not regarded as within the Act.
- (3) As regards persons engaged in labouring work not directly connected with the manufacturing process the

Act is held to cover persons loading, unloading or transporting materials, or goods on the factory premises and also persons engaged in carrying fuel for and attending to boilers, furnaces and any installations for generating power, light, heat and ventilation in the factory.

Resolution on Immigrant Labour in Assam for the year 1923-24.

Reference was made to the above and the Secretary was instructed to record this Committee's appreciation of the reference made by the Government of Assam to the excellent relations existing between Sumar Valley planters and their labour.

Proceedings.

The Proceedings of the last Meeting of the General Committee held on 27th October 1924, were confirmed after previous approval in circulation.

Illegal recruiting.

Discussion took place on the Minute under the above heading, and this Committee would record their opinion that no case should be settled without the whole of the Assam Labour Board being consulted, and the facts subsequently placed before the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and the Branches.

Reconstruction of the Branch.

Mr. J. MacKnight explained the position in his district, and it was agreed that no division of the North & North-West Cachar District was at present advisable.

It was unanimously agreed that the gardens Rukni, Bhubandhur and Monierkhal shall be transferred from the Chutla Bheel

District Committee to the Luckipur District Committee if all Managers of gardens concerned are agreeable.

Accounts of the Branch.

A Statement of Accounts of the Branch for the year ending 31st December 1924, having been previously circulated to all members of the General Committee, was laid on the table, and on the proposition of Mr. C. S. Cresswell, seconded by Mr. W. R. P. Gunnery, was unanimously ordered to be passed.

Application for leave from the Secretary to the Branch.

The Committee considered the application of the Secretary to the Branch for 7 months leave from 1st April 1925. It was resolved (1) that the Secretary be granted 7 months leave, (2) that Mr. A. B. Beddow be asked to officiate in Mr. Cooper's absence at the same remuneration.

Indian Tea Cess Committee.

Mr. J. Reid having intimated his wish to resign his seat on the above Committee, Mr. C. MacLeod was nominated in his place.

Maternity Benefit Act.

Letter No. 2588-90, dated 22nd October 1924, from the Government of Assam, forwarding a copy of a Bill designed to make provision for the payment of maternity benefit in certain industries, and asking the views of the Branch on the Bill, was laid on the table for discussion.

The Committee considered that as maternity benefits are generally given in excess of the requirements of the Act on tea gardens, the Bill is quite unnecessary as far as these are concerned, and the women employed on tea gardens, are far better off than they would be under any such Act. The Secretary was instructed to reply on these lines.

Cholera Epidemics in Cachar and Sylhet.

The following correspondence in connection with the above subject, having been previously circulated to all members of the Committee, was now brought under discussion:—

No. 1423-O., dated Calcutta, the 4th November 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.
To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to the proposal, put forward in the minutes of the meeting of your Branch held on the 12th August 1924, that arrangements should be made for the erection of a cold storage plant in Cachar and Sylhet for the storing of vaccines, I am directed to say that the Committee circulated all Agency Houses with interests in these two districts for their opinion on the proposal. A copy of this circular was sent to you with my letter of 8th September 1924.

2. I now enclose for your information a summary of the replies which have been received to this reference to Agency Houses. You will see from this summary that a considerable amount of support can be counted on for the scheme and in the circumstances I am to recommend that you should now institute enquires as to what the cost of the scheme is likely to be, and as to which firm might be willing to undertake the erection of the proposed plant in each of the two districts mentioned.

Letter No. 1553-O., dated Calcutta, the 27th November 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,
To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

In continuation of my letter to you dated 22nd November on the above subject, I am directed to enclose for your information and for any use you may make of them, certain papers received with a letter dated 6th November from the Indian Tea Association, London.

2. I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 7th November. The Committee will no doubt hear from you shortly

as to what action the Branch consider should be taken in the matter.

Letter dated 23rd October 1924.

From—Messrs. Leistikow, Allison & Lyon, 19 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London,

To—Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., 4 Fenchurch Avenue, E. C. 3. Our

Our Ref. 4350.

Borsig Refrigerating Chests for Lymph, Serum, etc.

As arranged when the writer saw Mr. Abbott yesterday, we are sending herewith Catalogue, L. 5238 b in duplicate illustrating and describing Messrs. Borsig's small Refrigerating plants and Refrigerating Chests. Leaflets 8003 which are inserted in the list give full technical particulars. We also enclose Ferro-prints 368/560 giving sectional views of the smaller and 368/561 giving sectional views of the larger. These Refrigerating Chests are built of the best Pitch Pine, are finished with white enamel on the outside and the insulated interior is lined either with enamelled iron or glass. The upper part of the Chest houses a small Motor Driven Ammonia Compressor with Counter-flow Condenser. A full equipment of Valves and Pressure Gauges is included; in the centre of the chest is situated the Brine Tank with Expansion Coil and a few Ice Cans. The advantage of this chest is that the air is maintained in a cold dry condition.

We understand from Messrs. Borsig that they have supplied some special chests for storing Serums, and we are writing to ask for particulars as to how they differ from their standard.

Prices of the chests are as follows:—

Size AB with Electric Motor suitable for Direct

Current or 3 Phase Electric Service	...	£	160	0	0
Without Motor	...	£	148	0	0
Size CD with Motor	...	£	210	0	0
Without Motor	...	£	198	0	0

Revised Shipping specification.

Size AB	...	...	...	£ .230	Cubic feet.
„ CD	...	...	...	£ 345	„ „

Gross Weight as per list.

We also send you Print 368/916 shewing standard Borsig size 00,600 Calory Refrigerating Plant. This consists of Ammonia Compressor with Condenser Valves, Gauges, etc.

Expansion Coil for erecting in Cold Storage Room and three Cold Storage Accumulators which maintain the temperature in the Cold Storage Room when the plant is shut down. The price for this equipment is £56/- exclusive of Motor. Shipping details are as per list.

The Refrigerating Chests are supplied complete in every respect except for the charge of Ammonia. The Refrigerating plant is exclusive of a structural work in Cold Storage Chamber, Foundation, etc., and piping other than the Ammonia Piping and Water Cooling Connecting Piping between the Condenser and the Compressor, also a Motor.

Delivery:—Plants are usually carried in stock and normally delivery f. o. b. Hamburg can be effected 2 to 3 weeks from date of receipt of order.

Terms of Payment:—Strictly net cash against f. o. b. delivery.

Should you require further copies of the list or the Blue Prints we will send these along on hearing from you.

This Committee would record that in view of the general support promised and the moderate cost of installing a cold storage plant for vaccines, they consider these might be erected by all big Companies or groups of gardens, and trust managers of gardens and Medical Officers will push the scheme with their Directors and Managing Agents in the various districts. They would further record their appreciation of the trouble taken by Members of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, in supplying quotations and plants of Refrigerating Chests.

With reference to Messrs. John Smeal & Co.'s offer to supply ice, the Secretary was instructed to thank them for their suggestion, which was now considered of little or no value for the purpose required.

Letter No. 4817-L.S.G., dated Shillong, the 8th December 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to refer to your letter dated the 26th August 1924, on the subject of cholera epidemics and the free supply of anti-cholera vaccine to tea garden managers.

2. In reply I am to say that the Government of Assam regret that they are unable to supply vaccine free of charge to all managers who undertake to allow their doctors to inoculate villagers in the immediate vicinity of their gardens. These vaccines are supplied by the Kasauli Institute and the cost is charged in the first instance to this Government and recovered from the local bodies and private persons supplied. Even when supplied to Government medical officers and institutions, the cost is debited to their budgets. It would not be possible to make an exception to this rule in the case of tea garden managers without granting the concession of free supply to others and this the Government are not in a position to do.

3. The Government have enquired into the complaint made by Dr. Madhok regarding the delay in supplying vaccine. Under the arrangements hitherto in force, all indents had to be submitted through the Civil Surgeon of the District and the Director of Public Health and hence some delay was inevitable. In order to avoid such delays in future, the Government now authorise tea garden managers to submit indents, in cases of serious emergency, direct to the Director of Pasteur Institute and Medical Research Institute, Shillong.

4. I am also to refer to the Indian Tea Association's complaint that Government and local authorities do not adopt energetic measures to deal with cholera epidemics. One great difficulty in dealing with epidemics in villages is the difficulty in obtaining prompt information. Government recently issued revised rules for the reporting of epidemics, but although these orders have effected an improvement, it is clear that delays still occur before the information of an outbreak is received by the

authorities. This is due to the impossibility of obtaining a sufficiently intelligent and responsible reporting agency in outlying areas. Once, however, information is received, Government are satisfied that the Local Boards and the local medical officers do all that is possible with the resources at their command to combat the epidemic. It is true that inoculation is not extensively adopted in rural areas but this is due to the fact that the villagers are generally opposed to inoculation and it cannot be made compulsory.

Discussion on the above letter took place, and reference was made to incidents where attempts were made to inoculate villagers during the last epidemics.

The Committee would record they consider an attitude such as expressed in this correspondence can lead to no improvement and that cholera will still wipe out villages wholesale as heretofore and be a standing menace to tea garden labourers. Local Officers having no resources at their command to deal with any large outbreak.

Calcutta School of Tropical medicine and Hygiene.

Reference was also made to Circular No. 36, dated the 29th December 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the above subject it was agreed that this Committee were of opinion that no guarantee for five years should be given, and that the Pasteur Institute in Shillong should receive equal support as being of more value to the Tea Industry in Assam.

Indian Factories Act, 1911.

Memo. No. 4300-02-R., dated 17th November 1924, from the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, forwarding for criticisms copy of a draft rule issued by the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, revising the form for the submission by factories of their annual returns, was placed before the meeting for discussion.

The Committee had no objection to raise on the proposed Draft Rule, as follows:—

DRAFT RULE.

“ Every Manager of a factory shall furnish to the Inspector of Factories or other Officer designed by the Local Government in this behalf the following returns, namely:—

- I. On or before the 15th January of each year, an annual return in duplicate in the form set forth in the schedule hereto annexed:

Provided that in the case of factory in which work is carried on only during a certain season or certain seasons of the year, the manager shall, if so required by the Local Government, submit the annual return within fifteen days after the close of that season or of the last of those seasons as the case may be.

- II. Before the end of each calendar month, a return giving notice of all the days on which the factory will be closed during the next ensuing month. This return shall be submitted whether the factory is or is not working during the calendar month preceding the one to which the return relates:

Provided that the Local Government may dispense with this return in case of any class of factories or of the factories in any particular area.

SCHEDULE.

Name of Factory.	Year ending 31st December 19
Name of Occupier.	Name of Manager.
1. District.....	
2. Place.....	
3. Nature of Industry.....	
4. Normal hours worked per week—	
	Men.....
	Women.....
	Children.....
5. Average number of operatives employed daily—	
	Men.....
	Women.....
	Boys.....
	Girls.....

6. What intervals are given to adults?
7. Are rest intervals given to children?
8. Are work-days sometimes substituted for Sundays as weekly holidays?
9. Is the factory exempted from the provisions 21?
22?
27?
28?

Letter No. 2984-87-R., dated 3rd December 1924, from the Government of Assam, with reference to copies of Notifications Nos. 812 & 813-R., dated 9th April 1924, asking for an expression of opinion of the Branch as to whether the exemptions of tea factories from the operation of the provisions of Sections 21, 22 and 27 of the Indian Factories Act, should be renewed for a further term, was laid on the table.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee consider further exemptions from the above sections imperative on the grounds that the hours worked in a tea factory are entirely dependent on weather conditions and the amount of leaf plucked the previous day.

Restriction of the Export of Paddy and Rice from the Surma Valley.

Memo. No. 4460-65-R., dated 27th November 1924, from the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, forwarding a copy of letter No. 6313-14-F.M., dated 13th November 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, to the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, on the subject of the restriction of paddy and rice, and asking the opinion of this Branch as to whether any restriction should be imposed in this district, was laid on the table for discussion.

The Chairman having referred to a telegram he had sent the Government of Assam during the recent rains, the Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee, while recognising the possible shortage and high price of rice owing to the export

of paddy, and the fact that any restriction of trade is wrong in principle, trust Government will watch the situation carefully with a view to preventing famine conditions.

Provision of European Chaplains in the planting Districts of Assam.

Letter No. 1557-O., dated 28th November 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the above subject, having been circulated, was placed before the meeting for consideration.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee while in favour of the proposals put forward by the Bishop, consider the question is one for settlement by Proprietors, and hope their members will continue to subscribe to their particular Church as heretofore. They note there is no provision made for subscription by other interests, such as Railway Companies, Oil Companies, Coal Companies and the Government grant; and thus the amount per acre might be reduced by taking these into consideration.

Cattle Trespass.

Letter No. 6112-13-F.M., dated 7th November 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, on the subject of impounding of village cattle by tea gardens, having been circulated to all members, letters from Messrs. A. M. Chalmers and V. F. Hillier on the same subject were laid on the table. This Committee would record they consider the following sentence a misstatement of fact:—

"the failure of the managers to fence their tea largely responsible for this",
the real cause of trouble being the lack of grazing grounds in the villages, large herds of cattle being sent to graze in charge of small boys who leave them, and that wire fences are continually cut by villagers at night, and their cattle graze in the tea, causing serious damage.

**Annual Returns under the Workmen's
Compensation Act.**

The following letter from the Government of Assam, with its enclosures, on the above subject, having been circulated to all members of the Committee, was now brought under discussion:—

No. 3024-27-R., dated Shillong, the 5th December 1924.

From—The UNDER SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam to forward, in continuation of this Department Memo. No. 1827-32-R., dated the 2nd August 1924, a copy of letter No. L-1272, dated the 22nd November 1924, and enclosure from the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, and to request that you will be so good as to favour this Government with an expression of opinion of your Association on the suggestion made in Government of India's letter and enclosure.

It is requested that your views may be submitted so as to reach Government not later than the 31st January 1925.

*Copy of Letter No. L-1272, dated Delhi, the 22nd November
1924, from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of
India, to the Second Secretary to the
Government of Assam.*

ANNUAL RETURNS UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

I am directed to address you on the subject of Workmen's Compensation returns. With this Department's letter No. L-1169 of 7th July 1924, copies were forwarded of a notification issued under Section 16 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, requiring certain employers to furnish annual returns. It has been suggested that, where employers are insured, the Insurance Company should be permitted to furnish the return on behalf of the employers. Such a method might be found convenient by employers and the returns so received, prepared as they would be by

experts, would probably be more accurately drawn up and more promptly submitted than returns submitted by employers generally.

2. It is not possible under Section 16 of the Act to prescribe that returns should be furnished by persons other than employers, nor would a return submitted by an Insurance Company constitute compliance with the terms of the notification already issued. The difficulty can, however, be met by a modification of the notification relating to returns so as to exempt an employer from submitting a separate return where it has been arranged that an Insurance Company shall furnish a corresponding return in the proper form. I am to enclose in this connection a copy of Section 12 of the British Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906 and an extract from Schedule II of the form of return prescribed under that section. The provisions of Section 16 of the Indian Act follow the British section cited and, if the proposal made above is generally approved, it could be carried out in a manner similar to that adopted in the United Kingdom.

3. I am to enquire if the local Government concur in the above suggestion, and to request that a reply may be sent to this letter not later than the 1st March 1925.

SECTION 12 OF THE BRITISH WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1906.

(1) Every employer in any industry to which the Secretary of State may direct that this section shall apply, shall, on or before such day in every year as the Secretary of State may direct, send to the Secretary of State a correct return specifying the number of injuries in respect of which compensation has been paid by him under this Act during the previous year, and the amount of such compensation, together with such other particulars as to the compensation as the Secretary of State may direct, and in default of complying with this section shall be liable on conviction under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

(2) Any regulations made by the Secretary of State containing such directions as aforesaid shall be laid before the Houses of Parliament as soon as may be after they are made.

Extract from Schedule II of the form of return prescribed under Section 12 of the British Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

An employer insured against his liabilities under the Act in a Mutual Indemnity or other Insurance Company, or belonging to an Association of Employers which deals on behalf of its members with claims for compensation, will not be required to make a separate return, provided the Company in which he is insured, or the Association to which he belongs, is under an arrangement with the Home Office to make returns on behalf of the employers insured or represented by it. Otherwise he must make the return, obtaining any particulars required from the Company or Association.

This Committee had no objection to raise on the suggestion made in the Government of India's letter and enclosure.

Proposed Karimganj-Longai Railway.

The following letter from Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd., protesting against the construction of the above proposed line, having been circulated to all members of the the Committee, was placed before the Meeting:—

Dated Calcutta, the 10th December 1924.

From—MESSRS. OCTAVIUS STEEL & Co., Calcutta,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

We understand that at a recent meeting of your Branch of the I. T. A. the question of the proposed construction of the above railway was discussed and we understand a small Sub-Committee was formed to go into the matter and to report in due course.

We wrote the Agent of the Assam-Bengal Railway on 7th March 1924 on behalf of the following Companies, viz.:—

The Longai Valley Tea Co., Ltd.

The Isa Bheel Tea Co., Ltd.

Hattikhira Tea Co., Ltd.

protesting against the project being proceeded with, and we enclose a copy of our above quoted letter for information.

On behalf of the Companies above referred to we now lodge, with your Branch, our strong protest against the construction of the proposed line.

Dated Calcutta, the 7th March 1924.

From—MESSRS. OCTAVIUS STEEL & Co., Calcutta,

To—The AGENT, Assam-Bengal Railway, Chittagong.

With further reference to our letter dated 8th December and to your reply No. 23/19, dated 14th December 1923 and reminder No. 23/19 of 23rd January on the subject of the construction of the proposed line, we have been in communication with the representatives of the interests in the Longai Valley and now beg to acquaint you of the views expressed.

We may say that amongst others we have sought the opinion of such well-known pioneers of the Tea Industry in the Longai Valley as Sir Robert Henderson and Colonel A. J. MacLaughlin, who were connected with the Valley many years before the Assam-Bengal Railway, was constructed.

We also desire to say we write on behalf of the following Tea Companies whose areas under tea are as follows :—

Hattikhira Tea Co., Ltd.	2730 Acres.
Longai Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	1931 ..
Isa Bheel Tea Co., Ltd.	905 ..

As things are at present floods are not uncommon and only last year a severe flood was experienced and certain areas of tea suffered so severely that it is very doubtful if the tea will ever recover. If the proposed line is constructed there can be no possible doubt but what the water level will be raised anything from a foot to a foot and a half when floods occur which can only have one result namely, that all flat lands, and there are many acres planted with tea, must go under water and the tea be drowned out.

To construct the line an embankment will have to be thrown up and this will act as a bund up the Longai Valley.

In your letter of 14th/15th December you enquired if we have any specific point of the proposed line in mind likely to suffer due to the proposed construction. Our reply is that we have no specific point but maintain that the flats or lowers lying areas of the gardens, the property of the Companies referred to above, will be flooded out as the embankment will interfere with the flow of water in flood time.

The proposed line, if constructed, will not benefit the gardens to any great extent as coal and stores will be boated up the river and tea will return by it, during the monsoon season, and when the river is too low for boating in the cold weather, a system of Motor Lorries will likely be inaugurated to Juri.

In behalf of the Companies above referred to we beg to lodge a strong protest against the construction of the proposed line.

This Committee would record that this matter being under consideration by a Committee of those interested, on which the Chairman represents them, they are unable to support any particular point of view on which two Valleys are in absolute disagreement.

Pilfering of Tea.

Correspondence on the above subject from Mr. D. Patterson and members of the Longai and Juri Valley and the Assam-Bengal Railway having been previously circulated, it was agreed in view of reports received, to ask the Government to appoint C. I. D. Agents at particular stations on the Assam-Bengal Railway; further to again consider the question of legislation on the lines of a certificate of origin. They would ask Managers to give assistance to the Traffic Manager, Assam-Bengal Railway, in detecting where pilfering takes place, and the Secretary was instructed to ask the Manager of the particular garden referred to in his letter of the 19th December to Mr. Patterson why correspondence had not been replied to. It does not appear reasonable to members of this Committee that tea should be stolen from packed

chests in factories, and dhan husks substituted when it is much easier to take tea from bulk during manufacture.

Proposed Separate Organisation of the Tea Districts Labour Association.

The Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee were in entire agreement with the resolution passed at a Meeting of the General Committee of the Assam Branch held on 29th November 1924, as follows:—

“That in the opinion of this Association, the Tea Districts Labour Association should be re-organised as a separate organisation, with headquarters independent of any Calcutta Agency Houses and that the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, be informed accordingly and requested to take such action as is necessary to give effect to this resolution.”

Dooars Recruiting from the Surma Valley.

The Chairman referred to communications he had had with Mr. Travers in connection with recruiting Sylhet coolies by Dooars gardens; this Committee would record their thanks to Mr. Travers for the trouble he had taken in clearing up the matter. They would take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. W. L. Travers on his well earned C.I.E.

Price of Petrol.

This was again under discussion, and the Secretary was instructed to record the following note in the Minutes:—

Price of Petrol in Calcutta	Kerbside)	Rs. 1 7 6	per gallon.
“ “ “ “	“ Tin)	Rs. 1 8 6	“ “
“ “ “ “	Silchar	Rs. 1 14 0	“ “

and to again call the attention of the Government of Assam to this grave scandal.

Sale of Land for Cutting Cane.

Reference was made by the Chairman to the sale of Cane Mahals to outsiders for export and to communications he had with the Forest Department, from which it appeared the interests of local industries had not been considered. This Committee would urge that local industries should be able to procure cane at the usual royalty per morah as heretofore.

Repatriation of Coolies

Mr. D. Patterson referred to the general idea prevailing in the Hailakandi district amongst South India coolies that they had only to go to the nearest Magistrate and be repatriated at Government expense. The Chairman explained the Government point of view on the question of repatriation, and trusted all District Officers would make this quite clear.

Quack Doctors.

A complaint on the subject of drug sellers who travel round in the cold weather, having caused coolies to lose their sight, having been made—this Committee would suggest some form of legislation might be introduced to curtail their activities on tea gardens.

Coolies Wages.

Confidential correspondence on the subject of a proposal by a Sylhet Company to increase its wages, was considered. This Committee record their complete agreement with the suggestion made that this matter should come under immediate consideration by the District Committees, with a Calcutta representative and the Chairman of the Branch.

Periods of wage payment.

The Committee confirmed the replies already submitted by the Secretary to the following letters:—

- a) Letter No. 5852 55-F.M., dated 23rd October 1921,
from the Second Secretary to the Government of
Assam, on the subject of periods of wage payment.

- b) Letter No. 6045-48-F.M., dated 3rd November 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, *re* a Bill with the object of making provision for the payment of wages on a weekly basis.
- c) Letter No. 906-P., dated 30th October 1924, from the Commissioner, Surma Valley & Hill Division, on the subject of a Bill to amend Section 27 of the Indian Succession Act, 1865.

Letter No. 5852-55-F.M., dated Shillong, the 23rd October 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Periods of wage payment.

I am directed to forward a copy of letter No. L.-1192, dated the 20th September 1924, from the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, together with a copy of its enclosure, on the above subject, and to request that you will be so good as to furnish Government with the information required by the Government of India so far as the employees of the industries controlled by your Association are concerned.

2. A reply to this letter may be sent by the 1st December 1924.

Letter No. L.-1192, dated Simla, the 20th September 1924.

From—The SECRETARY to the Government of India,
Department of Industries and Labour,

To—All LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, THE CHIEF COMMISSIONERS
of the North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan,
Ajmer Marwara and Delhi.

Periods of wage payment.

I am directed to state that the question of the method of wage payment in India has attracted considerable attention lately both

in India and elsewhere. The Government of India consider that authoritative information on this subject would be of considerable value to the Central and Local Governments; and it would be welcomed by the public generally. I am therefore to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the Government of India may be favoured with a statement indicating the extent to which wages in the.....are paid daily, weekly, fortnightly, monthly or on other periods, and the normal time which elapses between the close of the period in which the wage was earned and the actual payment of the wage. The latter point is one of considerable importance to wage-earners as a long interval tends to produce indebtedness. In some cases, this effect may be mitigated by the provision by the employer of facilities to the workers for obtaining rations, and I am to request particulars as to the extent to which this practice prevails.

2. A form showing in detail the facts required is appended to this letter, and I am to suggest that this form may be used in making such enquiries, if any, as the local Government considers necessary to obtain the information now asked for, and in sending an answer to this letter. The Government of India do not desire that any elaborate investigation should be made. The inquiry need not extend beyond the principal organized industries, included in the form, and may be confined, in those industries, to the main classes of workers employed, who will presumably be treated similarly in most cases. In respect of most of the industries the information if not already in the possession of the local Government, should be readily obtainable from local officers, such as Factory Inspectors. The Government of India will, at the same time, be glad to have information regarding any special features connected with the payment of wages which the local Government regard as deserving of notice. The Government of India are themselves making similar enquiries in respect of factories subject to their control and railways.

3. I am to request that a reply may be sent to this letter before 1st January 1925.

Letter dated Binnakandi, the 14th November 1924.

From--The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To --The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

In reply to your letter No. 5852-55-F.M., dated the 23rd ult. forwarding a copy of letter No. L.-1192, dated 20th September 1924, from the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, on the above subject, I am directed to inform you that the following are the usual methods of payment of tea garden coolies by the members of this Branch of the Association:—

- (1) Weekly payment, *i.e.*, when the leave day is Sunday, the week starts on Friday, books are made up to Thursday evening and payment made on Friday or Saturday as convenient, the longest period that elapses between the actual earning of a daily wage and payment of same can therefore at the most be 10 days. This system is in vogue on probably 80 per cent. of the gardens.
- (2) Fortnightly payment on the same principle by a few concerns.
- (3) The ticket system by which a coolie receives a daily token, convertible at the local shop, or once a week at the garden office.

In addition to these payments, cash payments are frequently made during the week for extra work, and rice is given out during times of scarcity in advance.

The Indian establishment, *i.e.*, Clerks, Jemadars, Sirdars, Mechanics, Carpenters, etc., are paid once a month, usually at the end of the first week of the next month, and would probably strongly resent any alteration of this custom, or any attempt to put them in the same category as the coolie as regards payment.

Letter No. 6045-48 F.M., dated Shillong, the 3rd November 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

In continuation of my letter No. 5852-55-F.M., dated the 23rd October 1924, I am directed to forward a copy of a Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 23rd September 1924, by Diwan Chaman Lall, M.L.A., with the object of making provision for the payment of wages on a weekly basis and to request that you will be so good as to favour Government with an expression of the views of your Association on the provision of the Bill, the scope of which is very wide.

2. A reply to this letter may be sent so as to reach this office on or before the 10th December 1924.

A Bill to make provision for the weekly payment of wages to workmen, domestic servants and other employees.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for the weekly payment of wages to workmen, domestic servants and other employees; it is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Weekly Payments Act, 192 .

Short title, extent, commencement and application.

2^a It shall extend to the whole of British India, including British Baluchistan and the Sonthal Parganas.

3) It shall come into force on the first day of June 1925.

4) It shall supply.

(i) to every class of workers engaged in factories which come under the cognizance of the Indian Factories Act, 1911;

(ii) to all employees in Government or private service establishments; and

(iii) to all skilled or unskilled workers or employees where-soever employed, provided that such workers or

employees are in receipt of wages which in total amount to less than Rs. 100/- per month.

2. From the date of passing of this Act, it shall be unlawful for any employer to engage any workman, domestic servant, or other employee who is to be paid his wages at a rate amounting to less than Rs. 100/- per month, on any other basis except that of payment of such wages on the weekly basis.

3. Any breach of this Act, will be punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to three months, and may also be punishable with a fine not exceeding Rs. 1,000/-.

4. The provisions of this Act shall not affect the right of employers to make payments to workers on the daily or any other basis provided such payments are not with-held for more than a week.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

During recent strikes in India it has been discovered that certain groups of unscrupulous employers have been in the habit of stopping the wages due to workmen who have worked in their factories even for a full period of a month, thereby causing a great deal of hardship to such workers and their dependants. The scandal created by such action on the part of employers was such that even the Government of Bombay had recently to take notice of it. The matter was subsequently raised in the Houses of Parliament where it was stated that the question of legislation on the lines indicated in the suggestion that payments to workers should be made on the weekly basis was under consideration. The passing of this Bill will certainly go a long way in getting a worker not only out of the clutches of Mill Managers and Mill Agents, but equally out of the clutches of the average money lender, considering that under the present circumstances an average worker's family in industrial areas, where payment is made on the monthly basis, has to subsist on credit for a period of six weeks of their initial employment with not a single pice of their remuneration being paid to them during such period of their employment.

SRINAGAR,

The 10th August 1924.

D. CHAMAN LALL.

Letter dated Binnakandi, the 14th November 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

In reply to your letter No. 6045-48-F., dated the 3rd instant forwarding copy of a Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 3rd September 1924, by Diwan Chaman Lall, M.L.A., with the object of making provision for the payment of wages on a weekly basis, I am directed to say that as the payment of coolies wages on a weekly basis is practically general (90 per cent. at least), on tea gardens throughout the Surma Valley, my Committee have no serious objection to raise to the suggested legislation, which they consider might possibly do good, as far as the ordinary labourer is concerned in other industries. They consider, however, that members of the Indian establishment on tea gardens, including clerks, jemadars, sirdars, mechanics, carpenters, etc., usually paid monthly, are in quite good circumstances, and would strongly resent any attempt to class them as daily wage earners, and look on this as an insult.

They consider a salary of Rs. 100/- per month far too high to fix for weekly payments, also that to make any breach of this Act punishable with three months imprisonment, or a fine of Rs. 1,000 - savours of Russian Legislation of the present day.

If the wage below which weekly payments were to be made was fixed at Rs. 20/- per month and the punishment for any breach of this Act, a fine not exceeding Rs. 50 - with an option to the individual to specify whether he desired weekly or monthly payment, the Act might be beneficial.

Annual General Meeting.

It was decided to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Branch, on Monday, the 23rd February 1925, and to invite Sir W. J. Reid, K.C.I.E., C.I.E., as this date was understood to be convenient to him.

District Committees.

Minutes of meetings of the following District Committees were ordered to be recorded :—

North Cachar District Committee meeting held on 17th Nov. 1924.	
Happy Valley „ „ „ „ 12th „ „	
Baliscra „ „ „ „ 17th Dec. „	

Repeal of Act XIII.

Letter No. 1697-O., dated 29th December 1924, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the 'above subject, having been previously circulated, the Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee see that no good purpose can be served by pressing for any legislation to replace this Act at the present time.

Recruitment of labour from the Bastar State.

The following notifications are published for information of all members of the Branch :—

No. 977-D/24, dated Raipur, the 15th December 1924

**REGULATION REGARDING EMIGRATION TO TEA GARDENS IN
THE FEUDATORY STATE OF BASTAR.**

All persons are hereby absolutely prohibited from recruiting, engaging, inducing or assisting any native of the Bastar State or any other person for the time being residing in the State to emigrate to any tea garden.

This prohibition shall take effect at once.

2. Whoever knowingly recruits, engages, induces or assists or attempts to recruit, engage, induce or assist any native of the Bastar State or any other person for the time being residing in the State to emigrate in contravention of this prohibition shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or both.

(Sd.) W. E. LEY,
Political Agent.

Supply of epidemic Vaccines.

Copy of letter No. 4846-L-53, dated 9th December 1924, from the Under Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Local Self-Government.

In continuation of this Department letter No. 2078-L.S.G., dated the 27th May 1924, I am directed to say that the Government of Assam are pleased to authorise tea garden managers to send their indents for epidemic vaccines in cases of serious emergency, direct to the Director of Pasteur Institute, Shillong. The Director will comply with the indents but will report such cases to the Civil Surgeon, who will bring it to your notice if this concession is abused.

Passports.

Copy of letter No. Pol.-2171/6281-2309-A.P., dated Shillong, the 18th December 1924, from A. W. Botham, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, to all District Sub-Divisional and Political Officers and the Political Agent in Manipur.

With reference to the correspondence resting with this Department letter No. Pol.-127 325-54-A.P., dated the 17th January 1923, I am directed to state for your information and guidance that the period of validity of British Indian Passports issued on or after the 1st January 1925, has been extended by the Government of India from two to five years. Passports issued on or after that date will therefore ordinarily be made valid for five years from the date of issue. The fee chargeable for the issue of a British Indian Passport will remain unaltered at Rs. 3/-.

2. Passports presented for renewal after the 1st January 1925, the validity of which have already expired or will shortly expire, will be renewed from the date of expiration for any period from one to five years at the option of the holder, provided that in no cases will the validity of a passport be extended beyond ten years from the original date of issue. On expiration of that period or, if at any time the space provided for visas is covered and the holder wishes to travel to countries for which fresh visas are required, a new passport must be taken out. The fee chargeable for the

renewal of a passport under the new arrangement is Re. 1/- for each year or a portion of a year for which it is renewed.

3. Consequent upon the new arrangements, it is requested that the following amendments be made in the various passport forms detailed below :—

(i) Form A—Declaration to be made by applicant for a passport.

(ii) Form B—Declaration to be made by parent or guardian of a child under the age of 15 years requiring a separate passport.

Paragraph 7 of the Passport Regulation on the reverse of the above forms should be altered to read as follows :—

“ Indian passport are not available beyond five years from date of issue. They may be renewed for a further maximum period of five years after which fresh passports must be obtained. The fee of renewal is Re. 1/- for each year, or a portion of a year, for which the passport is renewed ”.

iii) Form E—Renewal Form.

In the fifth line of the declaration for the words “ Two years ” read “year /s). ”

4. I am also to invite a reference to this Department Memo. No. 6152-83A.P. dated the 19th October 1921, with which forwarded a copy of notification No. 6872-A.P., dated 26th September 1921, containing the Indian Passport rules, 1921, and to request that for the words “ two years ” in the first line of rule 4 (i) of the said rules the words “ five years ” may be substituted.

Appointment of a Secretary of the Branch.

Previous arrangements having fallen through, it was left to the Chairman to select some one suitable, whose Managing Agents or Directors would allow to do the work.

Leave rules for the Secretary were framed as follows :—

Half pay at the rate of one month's leave for each year's service was sanctioned, and ordered to be recorded for future reference.

The present Secretary was thanked for the services he had rendered the Branch for the past eight years, and as a mark of appreciation, was granted six month's leave on half pay.

Assam Labour Board.

Mr. A. McCreath having resigned his seat as one of the representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, on the Assam Labour Board, Mr. C. McLeod was nominated to fill the vacancy.

Assam Bengal Railway and Steamer Communication Advisory Board Meeting. Karimgnj-Longai Valley Railway.

Managers of gardens in the Chargola and Longai Districts having elected Messrs. J. C. Dawson and P. MacIver, respectively, to represent their interests at a meeting to be held in Shillong on the 28th February 1925, the Secretary was directed to inform the Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Public Works Department, accordingly.

Charging of freight on tea on gross weight instead of net weight.

Letter No. R.G.-68, dated 21st January 1925, from the Traffic Manager, Assam-Bengal Railway, on the above subject, was placed before the meeting.

It was agreed this was a matter better dealt with by the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee.

The Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee see no useful purpose that can be served by replying to the Questionnaire, which they understand is in the hands of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Pilfering of Tea.

Correspondence on the above subject having been circulated, the Committee accepted the explanation of the Manager of the garden referred to in the minutes of the last meeting held on 7th January 1925.

Illegal recruiting.

Letter No. 1976-8, dated 30th January 1925, from the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board, with enclosures, regarding a case of illegal recruiting, was laid on the table after previous circulation.

Provision of European Chaplains in the Planting Districts of Assam.

No. 1557-O., dated Calcutta, the 28th November 1924.

From--The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To--The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to make a reference to you in connection with the above matter.

2. On the invitation of the Committee the Bishop of Assam attended the meeting of the General Committee which was held on 25th November, and explained the position in regard to the supply of European Chaplains in the planting districts of Assam. It is understood that the Bishop has already sent you a copy of a note written by him on the subject, in which he describes the situation as it exists now and puts forward certain proposals to place the payment of Chaplains' salaries on a less precarious basis. To effect this Bishop proposed that tea companies should make a donation of Rs. 12/- per 100 acres per year. This, with the help of a Government grant and private subscriptions, would enable five Chaplains to be licensed for duty in the planting districts on an average salary of Rs. 600/- per month. The proposal is set out in the note by the Bishop of Assam referred to above, but there are one or two points not specially touched on in the note which deserve mention.

3. The Bishop is anxious that it should be recognised that the proposals he puts forward are not necessarily final but are subject to amendment, particularly with reference to the denomination of the Chaplains appointed. As he explains in his note, there are at present Church of England Chaplains in three districts, and in addition Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd., provide a presbyterian Chaplain in the Sylhet districts. The Bishop's scheme provides for a total of five Chaplains in all. That is to say, it would include the three Church of England Chaplains now engaged, and the Presbyterian Chaplain whose salary is paid by Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd., and it would provide one additional Chaplain. As the Bishop has, it is understood, explained to you, the additional Chaplain need not be a Church of England Chaplain if the opinion is that he should be a Presbyterian. The discussion of this point can of course await a decision on the general principle of the scheme.

4. The second point is that the Bishop has explained to the Committee that, having once licensed a Chaplain, he is legally responsible for the payment of that Chaplain's salary; and in the present unsatisfactory condition of matters, and in the absence of any adequate provision for salaries, it is clear that he cannot be expected to go on licensing Chaplains and undertaking himself personally to be responsible for money being found for their salaries.

5. The next point is that, if any proposal on the lines of the scheme is to be adopted, it would have to be for a definite term of years, say, for five years, subject to reconsideration of the position at the end of that period. Such an arrangement will naturally make it feasible to retain the services of men of the best possible type.

6. The financial arrangement proposed by the Bishop is based on a subscription from tea concerns of Rs. 12 - per 100 acres, allowing for a total of 350,000 acres contributing. The amount thus derived is supplemented by a Government grant, and it is proposed that in addition private subscriptions to the extent of some Rs. 9,000 should be obtained. It appears likely in fact it is thought to be almost certain that the Government grant may be withdrawn at an early date, but you will notice that the acreage

basis mentioned above is on the low side, so that, if the scheme were generally accepted by European controlled concerns, the amount available would be considerably more than is estimated under this head.

7. The Committee are disposed to favour the scheme proposed by the Bishop, but before making any recommendation on the subject to the Indian Tea Association, London, they would like to be informed of your views on the position and on the proposals put forward by the Bishop.

Letter dated Calcutta, the 19th January 1925,
From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,
To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to your letter No. 1557 O., dated the 28th November 1924, in connection with the above subject, which was considered by the General Committee of this Branch, at a meeting held on 7th instant I am directed to inform you that my Committee while in favour of the proposals, put forward by the Bishop of Assam, consider the question is one for settlement by proprietors, and they hope their members will continue to subscribe to their particular Church as heretofore. They note there is no provision made for subscription by other interests, such as:—Railway Companies, Oil Companies, Coal Companies and Government grant, and think the amount per acre might be reduced by taking these into consideration.

Letter No. 285-O., dated 13th February 1925.
From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,
To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Your letter of 19th January in connection with the above subject was considered by the Committee at their meeting on 3rd February and it was felt that before any further steps should be taken in regard to the scheme put forward by the Bishop of Assam.

it was desirable to have from the Branches, a clear declaration whether a scheme such as has been proposed by the Bishop is a real necessity in the planting districts quite apart from the question of cost.

2. Perhaps you will let the Committee have your opinion on this point as early as possible.

The above correspondence having been previously circulated, the Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee consider a scheme such as proposed by the Bishop of Assam is a real necessity to planters on the lines suggested in the previous correspondence.

**Proposed separate organisation of the Tea Districts
Labour Association.**

Memo. No. 252-O., dated 10th February 1925, forwarding a copy of letter No. 251-O., dated 10th February addressed to the Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, having been circulated, was laid on the table, as follows:—

I am directed to refer to your letter dated 10th 12th December in which you incorporated the terms of a resolution passed by your General Committee at an extraordinary meeting held on 29th November 1924, to the effect that in the opinion of your Association the Tea Districts Labour Association should be re-organised as a separate organisation with headquarters independent of any Calcutta agency houses and that the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, be informed accordingly and requested to take such action as is necessary to give effect to the resolution.

2. The question has been referred by the Committee to the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, and the Committee of that Association have announced that they are in entire agreement with the above mentioned resolution passed by your General Committee.

I am directed to address you again on the subject as the Committee feel they can take no further action in the matter until they have before them some much more concrete proposals on the subject than have yet been received from either the Assam or the Surma

Valley Branches. I am to ask you therefore to submit to the Committee a constructive scheme in supplement of the resolution alluded to above and the Committee would be glad to have at the same time some statement of why you consider the present organisation of the Tea Districts Labour Association to be unsatisfactory and of the ways in which you think your proposed scheme would improve the work of that Association, either by promoting economies or by increasing efficiency, etc.

Mr. T. C. Crawford addressing the Committee on this subject, referred to the lack of criticism by members, of the present working of the Tea Districts Labour Association. This Committee would record that while recognising the necessity for a very carefully prepared scheme, if economies and improvements are to be effected, do not feel themselves in a position to submit a constructive scheme, which would involve criticism of the present management of the Tea Districts Labour Association. They are, however, in entire agreement with the Assam Branch, that the Tea Districts Labour Association, if separated from one particular Agency House, would command more confidence than it does at present.

Coolie Wages.

Considerable discussion on the present position as regards coolie wages in the Surma Valley took place, in which Mr. T. C. Crawford and Mr. A. O. Wyper took part.

Time being limited by the necessity of holding the General Meeting, any expression of opinion was postponed till the next meeting of the General Committee.

Assam Labour Board—Rules.

The following notifications are published for the information of all members of the Branch:—

The 26th January 1925.

No. 789-F.—The following notification issued by the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour is republished:—

No. L-1181, dated 8th January 1925—Inter provincial Migration. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 116F, of the

Assam Labour and Emigration Act (VI of 1901) the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Assam Labour Board Rules :—

AMENDMENT.

In rule 16 of the said rules the words " and of such questions as may be brought before it by the Chairman, provided that, in that case, if a majority of the members of the Executive Committee consider that a question should be referred to all the members of the Board, it shall be so referred " shall be omitted.

G. T. LLOYD.

Offg. Second Secy. to the Govt. of Assam.

Indian Factories Act.

The 29th January 1925.

No. 221-R.—In exercise of the power conferred by section 32 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), as modified up to 1st July 1922, the Governor in Council is pleased to exempt as a temporary measure factories situated on and used solely for purposes of tea plantations in the province of Assam from all the provisions of section 21 of the Act.

Provided that the number of workers employed on a particular job is always at least twenty-five per cent. greater than number actually required to do the work at any given time.

The order will remain in force up to the 31st December 1925.

G. T. LLOYD.

Offg. Second Secy. to the Govt. of Assam.

The 29th January 1925.

No. 222-R.—In exercise of the power conferred by sections 30 and 32 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), as modified up to 1st July 1922, the Governor in Council is pleased to exempt as a temporary measure factories situated on and used solely for the purposes of tea plantations in the province of Assam from the provisions of sections 22 and 27 of the Act during the manufactur-

ing season from 1st April to 30th November, provided that no one shall be required to work continuously without a whole day's leave for more than fourteen days at a time.

This order will remain in force up to the 31st December 1925.

G. T. LLOYD.

Offg. Second Secy. to the Govt. of Assam.

Letter dated 20th January 1925, from Mr. W. L. Travers, C.I.E., Baradighi T. E., Jalpaiguri, to the Secretary of the Branch.

Will you please thank your Chairman and Committee for their kind congratulations. It was very good of them to send the message.

Circular No. A.-281924-25, dated 26th January 1925, from the Secretaries, Tea Districts Labour Association, Calcutta.

We would refer you to the special Circular dated the 5th September 1924, in which it was suggested that the further importation of coolies from the Ceded Districts of Madras should be suspended until the situation become quieter.

We have now to intimate that two additional European Local Agents have been posted to these Agencies, Captain Steele having charge of the Bellary Agency only, Mr. A. G. Tweedie of the Guntur Agency, while Mr. D. R. Hazel supervises Anantpur and Cuddapah, with headquarters at Anantpur. It is hoped that these arrangements will ensure that only a suitable type of labourer will be recruited.

The Executive Committee have considered the situation and are of opinion that sirdars in limited numbers may now be consigned and we shall be obliged therefore if you will consider advisability of sending some sirdars of a good type who have proved by the work done during their stay on your estate that they are useful. Experience has shown that the earlier in the season Madras labour is imported, the more easily will it acclimatize and recruiting should not be delayed until the approach of the monsoon renders the question of acclimatization doubtful.

We would remind you that sirdars for the Ceded Districts will not licensed unless they have been six months on the estate or are merely proceeding to their homes to recruit their families.

Assam Settlements Bill.

Government of Assam.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

The 26th January 1925.

No. 228-L.—In exercise of the power conferred by rule 18 of the Assam Legislative Council Rules, His Excellency the Governor is pleased to order the publication of the following Bill, which it is proposed to introduce in the said Council, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons:—

ASSAM SETTLEMENTS BILL, 1925.

AN Act to define the main principles on which land revenue is assessed on lands used for agricultural purposes.

WHEREAS it is expedient that the process of revising the assessment of the land revenue in Assam should be placed upon a statutory basis; It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. (1) This Act may be called the Assam Settlements Act, 1925 and shall be deemed to be a part of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886.

Short title and extent.

2) It extends to those areas in the Province of Assam to which the provisions of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886, have been extended:

Provided that nothing in this Act shall apply to lands which have been or may be notified as town lands.

2. In this Act, unless a different intention appears from the Definitions. subject or context, —

2) A "settlement" means the series of operations regulated by Chapter III, Part C, of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886, whereby the rights and

liabilities of landholders and settlement-holders in a local area or class of estates are determined for a period.

(ii) An "assessment group" means a group of villages included by the Settlement Officer in one set of proposals for assessment.

(iii) A "matured village" means a village in which not less than 75 per cent. of the land settled or available for settlement is under cultivation or occupied by homesteads.

3. At the beginning of section 29 of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886, the following words shall be inserted:—"Subject to the provisions of the Assam Settlements Act, 1925".

Amendment of section 29 of Regulation I of 1886.

4. 1) The land revenue to be assessed in any district or assessment group under settlement shall be based on a consideration of the pressure of the existing assessment and the capacity of the people to bear without hardship a heavier charge. In particular, regard shall be had to the following factors:—

Assessment of land revenue in any district or assessment group.

- i) the existing assessment,
- ii) the economic condition of the people,
- iii) the effect of any increase of population or of the development of the country in increasing its resources,
- iv) the effect of any improvement in communications,
- v) the course of prices and its result upon agricultural values,
- vi) the rates of rent paid by tenants where land is sublet to any considerable extent,
- vii) in the case of an assessment group, the value of the gross produce,
- viii) the liability of the crops of any village to damage by natural causes, and

(ix) the extent of the improvement or deterioration in the fertility of the soil due to natural causes.

(2) The land revenue shall be assessed on the principle of classifying the villages and the fields and assessing a fair rate per *bigha* as the land revenue payable in respect of each class of land within each class of village provided that in the case of land settled as land but used as a fishery Government, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, may, instead of fixing a *bigha* rate, settle the land at a rate for the whole area proportionate to its value.

5. (1) The total revenue assessed on an assessment group shall in no case exceed 20 per cent. of the value of the gross produce of such group as determined by the Settlement Officer. Such determination of the gross assets of a group shall, subject to the provisions of section 151 of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886, be final.

(2) The revenue assessed at any settlement shall not exceed the revenue assessed at the previous settlement by more than 33 per cent. in the case of a district as a whole and by more than 50 per cent. in the case of any village which was a matured village at the last settlement.

6. The revenue assessed on every estate shall be determined by the application of the rates as determined under the preceding sections to the several classes of land in the estate:

Retardation of operation
of increased assessment.

Provided that when the total revenue so determined for all the estates held by the same person or persons within any group exceeds the former revenue, and the revenue as thus enhanced exceeds Rs. 12, the enhancement shall, on application being made before offer of settlement, take effect subject to the following limitations:—

(i) When the enhancement is not more than 33 per cent. of the revenue of all the estates, the new revenue shall be payable in full from the date on which the new settlement takes effect.

(ii) When the enhancement is more than 33 per cent. and not more than 66 per cent. of the old revenue, the new revenue shall for the first five years from the date on which the new settlement takes effect be limited to a

that it would be better for the General Committee to deal with this rather than for the District Committees to do so.

The General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association could only deal with the question —provided that the Government Wages Returns from all gardens in the Surma Valley were supplied to the Committee, and also that the General Committee were empowered to call for any figures or information from any garden in the Surma Valley which they considered necessary.

**Question of representatives of the planting
Constituency of the Surma Valley on the
Assam Legislative Council.**

As Mr. Dawson withdrew his resignation, the above question did not arise.

Appointment of Secretary for the Branch.

It was decided to appoint Mr. R. A. Palmer to act as Secretary of the Branch during the absence on leave of Mr. Cooper, with a remuneration of Rs. 200/- a month.

The Committee were pleased to sanction the Indian Tea Association Babu an increment of Rs. 20/- in his salary and to appoint an Assistant Babu.

Scientific Department Programme of Work for 1925.

Letter No. 330-O., dated 24th February 1925, from the Indian Tea Association, forwarding a copy of the programme of work as outlined by the Chief Scientific Officer, having been previously circulated, was laid on the table.

The Committee were in favour of the scheme of work as outlined in the programme, and they had no suggestions to make.

**Representation of the Assam European Constituency
on the Legislative Assembly.**

Letter No. 437-O., dated 12th March 1925, marked "Private and Confidential" from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with

its enclosures on the above subject, having been circulated only to members of the Committee, was now brought under discussion.

The Committee did not consider that the gentleman mentioned in the above letter should be approached in the matter, as they were of the opinion that a more suitable selection might be made.

The Committee were also of the opinion that a man with some legal training was required.

**Provision of European Chaplains in the Tea Planting
Districts of Assam.**

Letter dated 2nd, March 1925.

From—The RT. REVD. THE LORD BISHOP of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association

I have heard indirectly that the London Committee of the Indian Tea Association, have referred back the scheme for the provision of Chaplains with the request that they may be informed as to what help the Railway and Oil Companies give. As you may not have such information to hand it seems best for me to write and tell you the following facts:—

The A. B. Railway give us more help than any other body in Assam. They give the Bishop a 1st class pass over their entire system and the Chaplains a pass over their respective districts.

The D. S. Railway give the Bishop, the local Chaplain, one Indian Priest and the Diocesan Nurse passes over their system. they also supply the Chaplain with coal and give a substantial subscription to the local Clergy Fund.

The Burmah Oil Co., this year gave us Rs. 1,000/- towards the building of a Church at Badarpore.

It must also be remembered that the Company who run the Oil field at Digboi is the same as runs the D. S. Railway, so they give a substantial amount of help.

It will be seen from the above facts that both Ry. & Oil concerns are doing a very great deal to help us. Indeed without their help it would be quite impossible for the Bishop or the Chaplains

to do anything like the amount of touring that the planting community expect from them. I should most strongly deprecate any further demand being made on the goodness of the Railway Companies as in my opinion they already do all and more than can be expected from them.

Letter dated 8th April 1925.

From—MRS. BIGGE, HON. SECRETARY, Surma Valley
Clergy Fund,

To—The CHAIRMAN, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

I have seen a letter from the Bishop of Assam to the Secretary of the Indian Tea Association, Cachar Branch, and if I may be allowed to do so, would like to put the matter before you from my point of view as Hon. Secretary of the Clergy Fund.

First with reference to the A. B. Railway. I grant that they give Mr. Wood and his wife a Free Pass on the Railway. In the list of services for March, April and May, just circulated, I notice in March one trip to Badarpur, in April one to Badarpur, and on from there to Juri, Lungla and Sylhet. In May, one trip to Badarpur, one to Haflong and one to the Doloi Valley. This is the extent of Mr. Wood's journeys over the Railway. At this ratio for the year, the amount expended by the A. B. Railway in providing seating accommodation for Mr. Wood and his wife, is an infinitesimal sum, and for that they get three visits to Badarpur and one to Haflong, in three months. Put against that the Calcutta Agents. Take for instance, Messrs. Jardine, Skinner & Co. They subscribe Rs. 540/- per annum to the Clergy Fund. Seven of their gardens are in Hailakandi, three in the Chutla Bheel, one in North Cachar and one in North West Cachar. In this list of visits, I see Hailakandi and the Chutla Bheel are not mentioned, and North Cachar and N. W. Cachar receive one visit each. From these facts it would appear that Jardine, Skinner & Co., pay Rs. 135/- a quarter for one visit each to two gardens out of twelve, whereas the A. B. Railway get four visits for free pass.

Secondly, the B. O. C.—From the above facts, it appears that Badarpur gets a monthly visit from the Padre. During the six

years in which I have been Honorary Secretary, I received one subscription from the B. O. C., three years ago. The Bishop says they subscribed Rs. 1,000/- towards a Church at Badarpur. When a man builds a stable, we presume he is going to buy a horse to put in it, and building a Church is not much use, if you are not going to help in the maintenance of the Padre who takes the services in that Church.

Letter dated Silchar, the 19th April 1925.

From—The REV. D. W. H. S. WOOD,

To—The CHAIRMAN, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have just seen a copy of letter addressed to you by the Secretary of the Clergy Fund on the above subject, and in the absence of the Bishop of Assam, I venture to state the present position of the Chaplain of the Surma Valley with regard to the Assam-Bengal Railway and the Burmah Oil Company.

1. I feel that the period chosen for illustration by the Secretary of the Surma Valley Clergy Fund is hardly fair. It covers a very short time, and I might say here that Hailakandi was visited immediately before that list was issued and the Chutla Bheel appears in the new one which is under preparation now. Perhaps it may make things much more clear if I state that it is the endeavour of the Chaplain to visit every district, except the Balisera Valley, which is Padre White's special area, not less than three times a year.

2. It is true that Badarpur has Services every month. But the Bishop's orders are that they should be held on six occasions. The extra visits are occasioned by the fact that it is so happens that when I hold my monthly services in Silchar, evening services have proved a failure. I therefore go to Badarpur then in preference to staying in Silchar and doing nothing.

3. The Assam-Bengal Railway grants a pass to the Chaplain of this district, as it also does to other Chaplain in the Diocese. But it does so, not because it expects that the Chaplain will visit and minister to its people, but in order to save the Diocese, the Chaplain, and perhaps the Clergy Fund, a great deal of expense.

Maternity Benefit Bill.

Letter No. 2867-69-F.M., dated 1st April 1925, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, drawing the attention of the Branch on the following fresh points in the above Bill which arose in course of the debates, was placed before the meeting for discussion :—

- (1) The statement by the mover that he intended the Bill to cover not only estates in Assam, but all the organised plantations in all parts of the country.
- (2) A suggestion that the paucity of women doctors might be a question.
- (3) The question whether legislation should be provincial or central.

The above questions do not arise so far as the province of Assam is concerned, as the Committee do not consider there is any necessity for a bill of this description.

At the present time practically every garden in the Surma Valley gives three months full pay to all women on the gardens for child birth, and the General Committee, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association are of the opinion that should there be any gardens which do not give three months full pay, they should be requested to do so at once. All gardens have European Medical Officers, so the question, so far as the tea industry is concerned, of the paucity of women doctors does not concern them.

Assam Labour Board.

D. O. letter No. 2776-82, dated 21st March 1925, from the Chairman, Assam Labour Board, regarding Mr. MacMillan's tour in the Surma Valley, was placed before the Meeting.

The Chairmen of all District Committees were very pleased to accommodate Mr. and Mrs. MacMillan during their tour in their respective districts. A list of the Chairmen of all District Committees has been sent to the Chairman, Assam Labour Board, who will communicate with them direct.

The Planters' Journal and agriculturist.

The Committee had before them a letter dated 27th March 1925, from the Editor in Chief of the above Journal, asking to place their Journal in their list for the regular receipt of the Minutes of Meetings of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

The General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, beg to acknowledge the letter and suggest to the Editor in Chief of the Planters' Journal to apply to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, as they issue any notification which required publication.

Tea Districts Labour Association.

The General Committee read the correspondence with reference to the recruiting methods employed by Mr. Murry Penman and others in Raipur, with much regret.

Cholera epidemics in Cachar and Sylhet.

The following letter from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the above subject, having been previously circulated, way now brought under discussion:—

No. 563.-O., dated Calcutta, the 6th April 1925.

From --The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,
To--The CHAIRMAN, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Cholera Epidemics in Cachar and Sylhet.

I am directed to refer to the remarks on the above subject made by you at the Annual General Meeting of this Association on 13th March.

2. The Committee have re-considered the suggestion that Doctor Babus should be allowed to inoculate outside villagers as a means of combating outbreaks of cholera in Cachar and Sylhet. This suggestion, it appears to the Committee, might be of some use in cases of minor outbreaks of cholera among villagers but extensive outbreaks could not be dealt with adequately in this way. It must always be kept in view that the question of inoculat-

ing outside villagers is a matter for the Government to deal with, and the industry in permitting doctor habus to assist so far as possible in the inoculation of villagers does not accept any responsibility whatever in regard to providing medical services required by villagers outside the tea gardens.

After some discussion, the Committee passed the following resolution:—

Now that the Doctor Babus were permitted to assist in the inoculation of villagers at the time of cholera epidemics, that the Government of Assam be again approached with reference to free supply of cholera vaccine for the Surma Valley, and so combine and possibly stamp out this terrible disease in this Valley.

Joint Meeting of the Members of the Assam and the Surma Valley Branches at Haflong.

The following letter from the Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, having been previously circulated was brought under discussion:—

No 243, dated Calcutta, the 2nd April 1925.

From The ACTING SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

At the Annual General Committee Meeting of this Association, held in Jorhat on the 28th ultimo it was agreed that, subject to your Association's consent, a joint meeting of members of this and your Association should be held in Haflong before the Annual General Meetings of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Will you kindly inform me if your Association agree to the suggestion, or if they have any alternative proposal.

I was also directed to ask if you could see your way to forward me from time to time 30 copies of your Association's monthly proceedings when printed for the information of each member of my General Committee. If you so desire, I will forward you sufficient copies of our monthly proceedings on hearing from you the number of copies required.

The Committee were in entire agreement with the excellent proposal of the Assam Branch to hold a joint meeting of members of the Assam and the Surma Valley Branches in Haflong before the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and also that copies of the monthly proceedings of each Branch should be exchanged, as follows:—

30 copies to the Assam Branch and 20 copies to the Surma Valley Branch will be required for distribution among the members of the General Committee respectively.

Sale of Tea Locally in Assam.

The Committee considered that shops for the sale of tea should be opened at once in the various headquarters in the Surma Valley by the Tea Cess Committee, and the following list of men willing to do this, should be sent to Mr. John Harpur, Commissioner for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee:—

Names.	Addresses.
Messrs. Sen Gupta Bros. & Co.,	Silchar.
Anukul Chandra Datta,	Lakhipur P.O., Cachar.
Dr. Nagendra Nath Dutt,	Silchar.
Rai Bahadur Ramani Mohan Rai,	Karimganj Sylhet.
Firm of Raicharan Madan Mohan Rai,	Karimganj Bazar, Sylhet.
Ashutosh Dutt,	Silchar.
Gopal Chandra Naha.	Janiganj Bazar, Silchar.
Barada Kanta Das,	Silchar and Lakhipur, Cachar.
Jogesh Chandra De.	Nutanpatty, Silchar.

Indian Stamps Act, 1899 - Schedule I, Article 52, Creditors meeting—Proxy for use at Stamp Duty on.

Considered letter No. 3004 -06-F.M., dated 8th April 1925, from the Under Secretary to the Government of Assam, with its enclosures, regarding the use of stamped proxies in Creditors Meeting.

The Committee were quite in agreement with the proposed alteration of the Stamp Act.

**Proposal for the amendment of the Negotiable
Instrument Act, 1884.**

Letter No. 3027-34-F., dated 9th April 1925, from the Under Secretary to the Government of Assam, together with its enclosures, asking the views of the Branch on the above proposal, was brought under discussion.

The Committee had no suggestion to make on the above proposal.

District Committees.

Minutes of Meetings of the following District Committees having been previously circulated, were ordered to be recorded:—

Balisera District Committee Meeting held on 14th February 1925.
Hailakandi „ „ „ „ 28th „ „
Lungla-Juri-Doloi & North of Surma District Committee Meeting
held on 18th March 1925.

Coolie Wages in the Surma Valley.

Letters Nos. 759-O. & 942-O., dated 5th May and 16th June 1925, respectively, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the above subject, were placed before the Meeting.

The Secretary was directed to forward the correspondence to the District Committees concerned, as requested by the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, but the Committee were of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by so doing.

Form of Hazira Register.

Letter No. 1342-G., dated 12th May 1925, from the offg. Commissioner, Surma Valley & Hill Division, enquiring whether this Branch of the Association desire that any modification is required in the present form of Hazira Register prescribed under rule 57 of the rules under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, having been previously circulated, was placed before the meeting for discussion.

The Committee were of the opinion that no actual change was necessary excepting that weekly totals should be shown instead of monthly as at present, and column 14 in the Register should be a weekly one.

**Returns Prescribed under Section 38 of the Indian
Factories Act, 1911.**

The correspondence between the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam and the Commissioner, Surma Valley & Hill Division, in connection with the abovementioned returns under the Indian Factories Act, forwarded by the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, with his Memo. No. 419-20-R., dated the 24th April 1925, for an expression of opinion of this Branch of the Association, was now brought under discussion.

The Committee thought that under the proviso to clause I of the rule published by the Government of India in their Notification No. L-1250, dated the 4th February 1925, that the 15th January of each year would be the most suitable date for submission of the Annual return in the case of Tea Factories to the Chief Inspector of Factories.

With reference to the proviso to the clause II of the rule quoted above, the Committee were of the opinion that it would be necessary for tea factories to be exempted from the submission of the monthly returns.

Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee.

Letter No. 629-O., dated 18th April 1925, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with its enclosures, on the above subject, having been previously circulated, was now brought under discussion.

The Committee wished to endorse the views expressed by the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, in their letter of the 31st March to the Secretary, Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee.

They also agreed that part at least of the revenue derived from the Income Tax paid by the tea industry in Assam should be made available to the Government of Assam in order that that Government may adequately look after the construction and maintenance of roads in the province.

**Proposed Separate Organisation of the Tea Districts
Labour Association.**

Letter No. 311, dated 7th May 1925, from the Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, forwarding a copy of a constructive scheme approved by their General Committee at a meeting held on the 28th March 1925, for the organisation of the Tea Districts Labour Association, having been previously circulated, was palced before the meeting for consideration.

The Committee although in agreement with the Assam Branch on the principle of the separate organisation of the Tea Districts Labour Association, were not in favour of the scheme as at present proposed. They were of the opinion that some form of commission basis should be arranged in lieu of the large salaries suggested.

Grazing Rules.

The Committee confirmed the following reply already submitted by the Secretary under instructions from the Chairman, on the above subject :—

Dated Silchar, the 28th May 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The DEPUTY COMISSIONER, Cachar.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your Memo. No. 1034-42-R., dated 21st instant forwarding, for an expression of opinion of this Branch of the Association, a copy of the Governi ment resolution together with the proposed grazing rules.

The opinion of the Chairman of this Branch is that these new rules will have the effect of driving the surplus cattle into the tea gardens, and gardens grazing lands.

He notices that the Government of Assam wish to be fair to cultivators and professional graziers, also those carrying on cattle breeding and dairying bussiness. He trusts therefore that the Government will also be fair to the tea planters and allow them to take proceedings under the grazing rules against villagers who deliberately graze their cattle in the gardens; the penalty for which is placed at simple or rigorous imprisonment for one month, a fine of Rs. 100/- or both.

A copy of the proposed Grazing Rules is appended.

Grazing Rules.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Governor of Assam in Council in the Revenue Department, No. 938-R., dated the 24th April 1925.

RESOLUTION.

THE Government of Assam have had under consideration the desirability of replacing the existing grazing rules issued under Notification No. 1442-R., dated the 20th May 1922. The desire of the Government is to frame a set of rules which will be fair to the cultivator and to the professional grazier and which will be fair also to cultivators or settlement holders who also carry on cattle breeding and dairy business. The principle, which the Government desire to follow, is that while the ordinary cultivator or resident shall not be taxed over and above his land revenue, the owner of a dairy business, a cattle breeding or cattle trading business shall not escape the necessity of making a fair and just contribution to the provincial revenues in addition to any land revenue he may pay. These rules are published for criticism in the hope that they will be freely discussed and that any point where they fail in justice will be pointed out by persons interested and that emendations will be suggested.

They will be taken into consideration by the Government on the 15th June 1925, and it is requested that any criticisms may be placed before the Deputy Commissioner of the district by the 1st June 1925. Any modifications of the rule required to suit special local conditions will be considered.

By order of the Government of Assam,

G. T. LLOYD,

Offg. Second Secy. to the Govt. of Assam.

GRAZING RULES.

Rules to regulate the grazing of cattle or buffaloes in Unclassed State Forests and village forests in the Assam Valley Division and in the districts of Cachar and Sylhet.

Definitions.

1. (a) The term "Unclassed State Forests" means any land at the disposal of Government and not included in a reserved or village forest or a village grazing ground.

(b) The term "village grazing ground" means an area allotted as such by a Deputy Commissioner under Chapter IA of the rules made under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886, as subsequently amended.

2. Grazing fees on all elephants or cattle or buffaloes grazing in Unclassed State Forests or in Village Grazing Grounds shall be payable at the rates and by the persons prescribed in Appendix B to these rules, with the following exceptions :—

Exceptions. (i) No fees shall be charged for cattle or buffaloes under one year old. The grazing of goats and sheep shall be free subject to any orders to the contrary passed by the Deputy Commissioner.

(ii) Any resident interested in a dairy or cattle breeding or cattle trading business may graze free of charge four cows, two draught bulls or bullocks or two draught buffaloes. Any resident cultivator, not interested in a dairy or cattle or buffalo breeding or cattle or buffalo trading business, may graze free of charge four cows and such a number of plough or draught cattle or buffaloes being his own property as are necessary for his cultivation.

Graziers, cattle and buffalo breeders and traders and persons conducting or interested in a dairy business or cattle or buffalo business will pay grazing dues on all cattle or buffaloes over one year old on a date to be fixed), whether the said cattle or buffaloes are owned by them or in charge of themselves or their servants and whether they are or are not cultivators. The herdsman as well as the owner shall be liable for the dues on all animals found in his charge.

(iii) Village grazing grounds should be reserved primarily for the cattle of those villages for which they were constituted; but if they are not overcrowded may be thrown open to cattle from elsewhere. The mauzadar in the Assam Valley and elsewhere the panchayat shall decide in any dispute on this point.

3. i) No person, other than a cultivator domiciled in the district or a servant of or member of the family of such a cultivator, shall graze cattle or buffaloes in Unclassed State Forests except under and in accordance with the provisions of a grazing permit as prescribed in Appendix A to these rules; and all such persons shall take out permits for all cattle or buffaloes kept in their charge whether they belong to them or not.

The persons who are allowed concessions under clause (ii) of rule 2 shall also take permits of exemption as prescribed in Appendix C.

ii) Grazing permits shall be issued on payment, in the manner hereinafter specified, of fees at the rates prescribed in these rules, and shall cover the period from 1st July to 30th June following.

iii) Application for permits shall state the number and kind of cattle or buffaloes and the place or places where it is proposed to graze them, and shall be made before the 1st of June each year in writing to the mauzadar. Graziers arriving in a district after the 1st of June shall apply for a permit in similar manner within one month of the date of their arrival.

iv) Two-thirds of the grazing fees due on a permit at the prescribed rate shall be paid to the mauzadar issuing the permit at the time when the application is filed. The remaining one-third shall be paid to the Mauzadar or Mohsirdar or any other officer authorised by the Deputy Commissioner at the prescribed rates not later the 1st of December following. Full fees shall be charged to graziers arriving in a district before the 1st of January and half fees to those arriving after that date, but allowance shall be made for any fees for the year in question already paid in any other part of the province. Deputy Commissioners are authorised to remit the unpaid portions of the fees in cases in which their realization would cause hardship, e.g., in the case of a number of cattle or buffaloes destroyed by an outbreak of cattle disease or cattle or buffaloes sold by an order of a Court.

- (v) If after the issue of a permit and before the close of the year a permit holder becomes possessed of more cattle or buffaloes liable to tax than are included in the permit, he shall apply to the Mauzadar or Mohsirdar or other authorised officer within 15 days for an additional permit. If such additional permit is issued before the 1st of January he shall be required to pay the fees for a full year at the time of issue of permit; if after the 1st of January, he shall pay half the annual fees.

A purchaser of cattle or buffaloes shall not be entitled to exemption from the payment of grazing fees under this rule on the ground that the cattle in question are covered by a permit taken out by his vendor unless the transfer of ownership was notified at the time to the Mauzadar or Mohsirdar or any other authorised officer and all fees due for the year were paid in full.

- (vi) Any grazier, who fails to apply in time for permits for the full number of cattle or buffaloes in his charge on which grazing fee is payable, may be required to pay double the amount of fee due on the cattle or buffaloes omitted from the application. Rewards up to the whole amount of the excess fee realised in such cases may be granted by the Deputy Commissioner to the Mauzadar or to any person giving information as to the existence of unreported cattle or buffaloes.

4. (i) The Deputy Commissioner may reserve areas for grazing for the general public or for graziers apart from areas reserved as village grazing grounds. Such reserve shall be entered in a register in the office of the Deputy Commissioner or Sub-Divisional Officer.

Reservation of special
areas for graziers.

- (ii) The Deputy Commissioner may fix the sites of the *khutis* or *bathans* in each grazing area, and no grazier shall remove his cattle and buffaloes from one *khuti* or *bathan* to another without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner or Sub-Divisional Officer.

5. Fees at the special reduced rates to be fixed by the Deputy Commissioner shall be charged for grazing cattle or buffaloes in

Unclassed State Forests reserved for graziers who undertake to supply pure milk to certain towns in the Assam Valley Division for sale at rates agreed upon by the Deputy Commissioner and the Chairman of the Municipal Board.

6. An appeal against erroneous or improper assessment of grazing fee or enumeration will lie to the Deputy Commissioner or the Sub-Divisional Officer, as the case may be, and shall be filed within one month of the receipt of the permit issued. In all such cases the orders of the Deputy Commissioner shall be final.

7. Arrears of grazing fees due under these rules are recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

8. If any person infringes any of the provisions of Rules 3 or 4 *in* above, he shall be liable to be punished with either simple or rigorous imprisonment, for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees, or with both, in addition to any other penalty prescribed in these rules.

APPENDIX A.

PERMIT FOR GRAZING.

District.

Permit No.

Book No.

Name.....

Residence.....

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Locality.	Date of expiry of permit.	Description of animal.	Number.	Date.	Amount.	Remarks

The

192 .

.....District.

NOTICE.

1. The holder of this permit is entitled to graze the number of cattle or buffaloes entered in columns 3 and 4 of the permit in the locality entered in column 1.

2. He shall not shift his cattle or buffaloes from one *lathan* or *khuti* to another without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner or Sub-divisional Officer.

3. A person wishing to graze cattle or buffaloes in Unclassed State Forests shall apply before the 1st of June each year to the Mauzadar for a permit and shall declare the number and kind of his cattle or buffaloes and the place or places where he desires to graze them. He shall pay to the officer issuing the permit two-thirds of the grazing fee at the time of issue. The balance of the fee shall be paid to the Mauzadar or Mohsirdar or other authorised officer not later than the 1st of December following. All permits shall expire on the 30th June.

4. Any grazier who fails to apply in time for permits for the full number of cattle or buffaloes in his charge which are liable to pay dues, may be required to pay up to double the amount of fee due on the cattle or buffaloes omitted from his application.

5. If after the issue of a permit and before the close of the year a grazier becomes possessed of more cattle and buffaloes liable to tax than are included in the permit, he shall apply to the Mauzadar or Mohsirdar or other authorised officer within 15 days for an additional permit. If such additional permit is issued before the 1st January, he shall be required to pay the fees for a full year at the time of issue of permit; if after 1st January, he shall pay half the annual fees.

6. No. fees shall be charged on cattle or buffaloes which are under one year old at the time of the issue of the permit.

7. The penalty for the infringement of grazing rules is either simple or rigorous imprisonment up to one month, or fine up to one hundred rupees, or both.

APPENDIX B.

Rates of fees payable by the owner or possessor or by the head of a joint family which owns or has in its possession any cattle or buffaloes or elephants grazing in Unclassed State Forests.

Kind of animal.	Rates leviable in Lakhimpur, Shibsagar, Nowgong, Darrang, Kamrup and Goalpara.	Rates leviable in Garo Hills.	Rates leviable in Sylhet and Cachar.
1	2	3	4
Buffaloes ...	Three rupees per head per annum.	Six rupees per head per annum.	One rupee per head per annum.
2 Other horned cattle	Six annas per head per annum.	Twelve annas per head per annum.	Four annas per head per annum.
	Rates leviable in Lakhimpur, Shibsagar, Nowgong, Darrang, Kamrup, Goalpara, Garo Hills, Cachar and Sylhet.		
3. Elephants ...	Fifteen rupees per head per annum or one rupee and eight annas per head per mensem.		
4. Elephant calves.	Half the rate for elephants.		

APPENDIX C.

PERMIT FOR EXEMPTION.

District	Permit No.		
Name	Residence.		
Date of expiry of permit.	Description of animal.	Number.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4

1. The holder of this permit is entitled to graze free the number of cattle or buffaloes entered in columns 2 and 3.

2. A person wishing to graze cattle or buffaloes in Unclassed State Forests shall apply before the 1st of June each year to the mauzadar for a permit and shall declare the number and kind of his cattle and the place or places where he desires to graze them.

3. If application is not made for permit by any person his cattle or buffaloes will be liable to assessment.

G. T. LLOYD,

Offg. Second Secretary to the Government of Assam.

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association.

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of the Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, Assam Branch, held at Shillong at 11-30 A.M., on 27th April 1925.

PRESENT :

Col. C. H. Bensley, C.I.E., K.H.P.	<i>President.</i>
Lady Reid.	<i>Honorary Secretary.</i>
Mr. G. T. Lloyd	<i>Honorary Secretary.</i>
Mr. J. E. Reid,	<i>Honorary Treasurer.</i>
Miss M. Campbell, Lady Superintendent (by invitation).	

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

2. Lady Reid and Mrs. G. E. Soames, having agreed to serve, were duly elected as members of the Committee.

3. The accounts of the Branch for 1924, as presented by the Honorary Treasurer, were passed.

4. It was decided that the amount of Rs. 2,295-11 0 at the Bank of Messrs. Jummatt Oollah & Sons should be transferred to suspense account as that firm is insolvent.

5. The Honorary Treasurer was instructed to ask the Central Committee if it would be possible to write off the deficit of Rs. 6,117-12-0 due from the Branch up to the end of 1924, in order that the Branch might make a fresh start and endeavour to work within their income.

6. The Honorary Treasurer was instructed to give notice of withdrawal of the fixed deposit of Rs. 3,000 at the Planters' Stores and Agency, Dibrugarh, and to re-deposit or invest it in a more profitable manner.

7. The accounts of the Lady Minto Nursing Home, Shillong, were passed.

8. It was decided that the amount of Rs. 1,683-7-0 kept with Messrs. Jumat Oollah & Sons in the Nursing Home account should be transferred to suspense account, as the firm is insolvent.

9. The question of closing the Shillong Nursing Home was discussed again. It was decided that it would probably be necessary to close it in October, but that the matter should be reconsidered at a meeting to be held at that time.

10. Mr. J. E. Reid, I.P., Honorary Treasurer, was authorised by the Committee to incur loans or overdrafts up to a total of Rs. 2,000 (two thousand only) from the Imperial Bank, Calcutta, against the security of the Rs. 6,000 on deposit at the Bank.

11. The Honorary Treasurer was instructed to suggest to the Adjutant of the Assam Valley Light Horse that the Regiment should subscribe, on behalf of their staff of instructors, to the funds of the Association.

12. The Committee decided that the Eric Hannay Memorial Fund Committee should be asked to pay the travelling expenses of the Nursing Sister sent to Tezpur to replace a Sister who has served her time and whose contract has terminated.

C. H. BENSLEY, COLONEL, I.M.S.,
*President, Lady Minto's Indian Nursing,
Association, Assam Branch.*

Cholera Epidemic in the District of Cachar and Sylhet.

The Committee read with satisfaction the letter No. 819-O., dated 18th May 1925, addressed by the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of Assam, urging the Government to supply free of cost, the anti-cholera vaccine for the inoculation of villagers by tea garden Doctor Babus.

The Planters' Journal and Agriculturists.

Reference letter dated 7th May 1925, from the Editor in Chief of the above Journal, regarding the official Minutes of Meetings of this Branch of the Association being sent them for publication—the Secretary was instructed to reply that the Minutes of Meetings of this Branch of the Association are “Private and confidential” and that the Committee regret that they are unable to send copies for publication in the public press.

Hail Assessment Fees.

The Committee were of the opinion that the present scale of Hail assessment fees is too low for the amount of actual work and expert opinion required; large areas taking possibly one or two full days. The Secretary was instructed to call the attention of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, to the subject.

Assam Land Revenue Regulation, 1886.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS.

Letter No. 926-O., dated 13th June 1925, from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, inviting the attention of the Branch to Notification No. 1355-R., dated 1st June 1925, published in the *Assam Gazette* of 3rd June 1925, relating to draft amendments on the rules of the above Regulation, having been previously circulated, was laid on the table.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that this Committee have no objection to the proposed amendments.

Assam Settlement Bill, 1925.

The draft of the above Bill having been previously circulated, was now brought under discussion.

The Committee found that the wording of the Bill was very involved so far as any one being able to ascertain to what extent the tea industry would be affected by the Bill, and they trust that until the Tea Industry in this Valley clearly understands to what extent it will be affected, the Government of Assam will not proceed with the Bill.

The Secretary was instructed to forward a letter on the subject from Babu Narendra Krishna Dutta, B.L., Pleader, Sylhet, to the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Maternity Benefit Bill.

Reference to the proceedings of the debate in the Legislative Assembly on the subject of the above Bill, the Committee strongly protest against the form of discussion that took place, when unfounded remarks detrimental to the tea industry were allowed to pass practically unchallenged. They considered that as practically every garden in the Valley gives three months full pay for maternity cases, there is no necessity for a bill of this description.

Report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee.

Reference to the above, the Committee were of the opinion that the new scheme as adumbrated by the Shea Committee was unsuitable for this part of India. They consider that the best for all concerned would be to return to the entirely Volunteer System in vogue here before the war.

Weekly Payments Bill.

Reference above, a census of the gardens in the Surma Valley having been taken, it was found that 2·29 per cent. gardens paid monthly, 12·98 per cent. fortnightly, 70·99 per cent. weekly and 13·74 per cent. daily.

The Committee decided that the gardens paying monthly be asked to pay weekly, so that all gardens in this Valley would then be paying weekly with the exception of a few who pay fortnightly at the coolies own request. There would therefore appear to be no necessity for the above Bill.

Leprosy Relief Fund.

The Committee were of the opinion that the tea industry should contribute to the above fund, and the Secretary was instructed to write to Calcutta on the subject.

District Committees.

Minutes of meetings of the following District Committees were ordered to be recorded:—

Lungla-Juri-Doloi & North of Surma District Committee meeting held on the 7th May 1925.

Chargola-Longai District Committee meeting held on 11th June 1925.

Proposed Transfer of the Districts of Sylhet and Cachar from Assam to Bengal.

Correspondence on the above subject forwarded by the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, with his Memo. No. 1673-90-G., dated the 13th June 1925, having been previously circulated, was placed before the meeting for discussion.

The Secretary was instructed to send the following protest to the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar:—

“The Committee strongly protest against the transfer of Sylhet and Cachar from Assam to Bengal.”

Representative of the Assam European Constituency on the Legislative Assembly.

Letter No. 949, dated 19th June 1925, marked “Private and confidential” from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with its enclosures on the above subject, was placed before the meeting for discussion.

The Committee did not agree with the proposal suggested. They did not consider it feasible to expect a Superintendent, Manager or Senior Assistant to devote four months of the year to work on the Legislative Assembly without extra remuneration.

Visit of Mr. C. D. Ahearne, Malayan Civil Service, to Assam.

The Committee had before them a letter No. 1774-G., dated 19th June 1925, from the Commissioner, Surma Valley & Hill Division, informing the Branch that the Federated Malay States

have proposed to send a representative of that Government to study labour condition in this province, and that Mr. C. D. Ahearne has been selected for this purpose.

The Secretary was directed to inform the Commissioner, Surma Valley & Hill Division that this Branch would be very pleased to give Mr. Ahearne any assistance he may require on his investigation.

Collection of Income Tax in Assam.

Letter from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, dated 19th February 1925, on the above subject, was put before the meeting.

The Committee were of the opinion that all income tax which accrues in Assam from private individuals and Companies, should be collected and paid in Assam, and that the extra money thereby obtained should be allocated to the communications in the province.

Recruiting Propaganda.

A letter from Babu Narendra Krishna Dutt, B.L., Pleader, Sylhet, regarding Propaganda in the recruiting districts was read, and the Secretary was instructed to forward it to the Tea Districts Labour Association for any action they may think necessary.

Balance Sheet as on 31st December 1924.

(150)

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, Assam Branch.

Revenue Account for the year ending 31st December 1924.

	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
To Discount ... ..	...	...	...	...
" General Charges—				
Office expenditure ... ..	...	...	...	...
Postage Stamps (per Honorary Treasurer)	450 0 0	...	...	90 0 0
Telegrams (per Honorary Treasurer)	94 9 0	...	...	9,013 0 0
Stationery (per Honorary Treasurer)	1 13 0	...	...	...
Sundries (per Honorary Treasurer)	3 5 0	...	...	...
Fees to Crozier's Agency (per Lady Superintendent)	8 5 3	...	...	...
Postage Stamps (per Lady Superintendent)	120 0 0	...	...	...
Telegrams (per Lady Superintendent)	105 0 6	...	...	...
Stationery (per Lady Superintendent)	125 11 0	...	...	...
Sundries (per Lady Superintendent)	72 16 0	...	...	...
...	399 3 3	...	...	1 415 9 6
Loss amount recovered for telegrams, etc., by the Superintendent as per sundry bills	1,380 14 0	...	...	...
	34 1 0	1,346 13 0	...	...
To Messing Charges ... ..	...	8,404 2 6	...	...
" Travelling Allowance (Provincial) ... ..	...	753 4 0	...	...
Total Rs. ... ..	...	10,518 9 6	TOTAL Rs.	10,518 9 6

S. SULLONG,

The 1st April 1925.

J. E. REID,

Honorary Treasurer, Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, Assam Branch.

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, Assam Branch.

Statement of Receipts & Expenditure in account with the Central Committee for the year 1924.

To Central Committee—		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Salaries	15,275	15	8	...	17,512 10 11
Holiday allowances	150	0	0	...	...
Chemists charges	66	8	0	...	2,076 0 0
Provident Fund	16	12	0	...	11,441 0 0
Sick leave expenses	15	0	0	...	...
Travelling Allowances (Central Committee)	188	7	3	...	4,679 4 0
Uniform	1,860	0	0	...	18,196 4 0
Fees Remittances	9,828	5	0	...	...
Fees to be remitted for the months of September, October, November and December 1924	6,177	12	0	...	...
Fees outstanding	1,830	3	0	...	...
" for Provincial Fund	240	0	0	...	...
" for Sisters	120	0	0	...	...
Total Rs.	Total Rs.	...
							35,708 14 11

SULLONG,

The 1st April 1925.

J. E. REID,

Honorary Treasurer, Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, Assam Branch.

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, Assam Branch.

General Revenue Account for the year ending 31st December 1924.

	Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
To Revenue—Account—Loss for the year 1924	...	6	...	By Balance at 1st January 1924	...	...	2,601 8 10
" Balance	...	4	...	" Donation	...	...	15 0 0
				" Subscription for 1923 collected in 1924	...	...	40 0 0
				" Fees for Provincial Fund as per Sundry Bills	...	...	240 0 0
Total Rs.	—	10		Total Rs.	...		2,896 8 10

SHILLONG,
The 1st April 1925.

J. E. REID,
Honorary Treasurer, Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, Assam Branch.

Lady Minto Shillong Nursing Home.

Balance Sheet on 31st December 1924.

	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Balance from General Revenue Account	...	8,538 8 3	General Suspense Account--		
			Due by the Association	1,932 5 2	
			Less Central Committee Account--		
			Fees to be remitted for the months of September, October, November and December 1924	1,422 0 0	310 5 2
			Outstanding Bills--		
			Bill No. 216	108 0 0	
			Ditto 280	52 14 0	160 14 0
			Cash--		
			In hand of the Lady Superintendent	161 6 1	
			At Jarnat Oolla & Sons (in liquidation)	1,683 7 0	
			At Imperial Bank of India, (Dibrugarh)	22 8 0	
			Fixed deposit with Imperial Bank of India, (Calcutta)	6,000 0 0	7,807 5 1
Total Rs.	8,358 8 3	TOTAL Rs. ...	...	8,588 8 3

SHILLONG,
The 1st April 1925.

J. E. REID,

Honorary Treasurer, Lady Minto Shillong Nursing Home.

Preparation of vaccines for use in tea districts.

No. 860-O., Calcutta, 16th June 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

In continuation of previous correspondence resting with my letter No. 661-O., dated 5th May 1924, I have now to forward, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter dated 29th May 1924, and of the enclosures thereto, received from the Government of Assam, Local Self-Government Department, Medical Branch, on the above subject.

No. 2126-L.-S.-G., dated Shillong, the 29th May 1924.

From—The UNDER SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

In reply to your letter No. 517-O., dated the 28th March 1924, on the subject of the preparation of vaccines for pneumonia and bacillary dysentery, I am directed by the Government of Assam to forward for information a copy of this Department letter No. 2055-L.-S.-G., dated the 26th May 1924, addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Assam Branch, British Medical Association.

No. 2055-L.-S.-G., dated Shillong, the 26th May 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

To—The HONORARY SECRETARY, Assam Branch, British Medical Association, Borjuli, Assam.

I am directed to refer to your letter dated the 15th March 1924, on the subject of the preparation of vaccines for pneumonia and bacillary dysentery and in reply to forward copies of two notes recorded on the subject by the Director of the Pasteur Institute, Shillong. The Government have no information of the excellent

results obtained from such vaccines to which you refer in your letter, but it will be seen that the Director's opinion is—(1) that the anti-pneumonia prophylactic vaccine has definitely proved a failure, 2) that the pneumonia curative vaccine is not of practical use owing to the fact that for every patient a rabbit has to be inoculated and 3) that the anti-dysentery prophylactic vaccine is dangerous and has not yet been thoroughly tested.

2. I am to suggest that if your Association desires to test the Besredka vaccine on tea gardens you should consult the Director of the Pasteur Institute direct.

Copy of U. O. No. 66-V.S., dated 22nd April 1924, from the Director of Pasteur Institute, Shillong, to the Director of Public Health, Assam.

In continuation of my U. O. note No. 54-V.S., dated 3rd April 1924, regarding vaccines in Pneumonia and Dysentery—Capt. Malone's work on the use of a prophylactic vaccine in pneumonia is, I understand, in the form of a confidential presentation to the Government of India, but my information is that it does not come out in favour of the use of a prophylactic vaccine in pneumonia. Whilst Malone got disappointing results with his prophylactic pneumococcus vaccine he obtained results which appear to be significantly in favour of a curative vaccine. But then his curative vaccine demanded inoculation into a rabbit for every individual patient and that is not a very practical proposition. The use of vaccines prepared from particular local strains or particular types is an idea which has been probably overdone. Sir Almroth Wright himself has, as far as curative vaccines go, given his authority to the view that they are mainly non-specific, which seems to go far to confirming this view.

As regards the use of prophylactic dysentery vaccine, I understand that accidents have happened with this vaccine in the past, and the possibility of such occurrences tends to negative the use of such a vaccine at least of its large scale, indiscriminate use. At the present time the "Bile-vaccine" of Besredka is considered to have established its utility. The vaccine is administered orally in intestinal disease after a "sensititioning" dose of Bile. The evidence in favour of this vaccine, however, could with advantage

be tested in a similar way to that in which Malone tried out his pneumococcus vaccine. In the meantime it should not be assumed that it is efficacious. A paper by Lt., Col. Cornwall on this Bili. vaccine is appearing in the India Journal of Medical Research.

In accordance with present arrangements vaccines are prepared at the Central Research Institute, and the Director informs me that he can easily make the vaccines required. It is very advisable that the vaccines should be used under stringent conditions of statistical test for efficacy.

D. P. H. U. O.—As Dr. Forsyth gives no reference in his letter, I am unable to trace the "excellent results" mentioned by him. "Excellent results" can be obtained after the use of any vaccine or medicament administered without controls during the decline of an epidemic. When such results are weighed in the balance of modern statistical methods they are often found wanting. As far as I know the dysentery prophylactic vaccine is not being further tested. If it is proposed to do so, I could consult Major H. H. King, I.M.S., who was deputed by the Government of India to study recent statistical method under Professor Karl Pearson, F.R.S., as to the most suitable lines on which to conduct such an enquiry. The Tea Association through its Medical Officers could try out under stringent conditions of statistical test for efficiency the prophylactic vaccine of Besredtra in dysentery. The large controlled labour force of the Tea Industry of Assam should afford favourable conditions for such an enquiry.

**Proposed reduction of pound fine for buffaloes in the
Silchar Sub-Division.**

No. 1809-G., dated Sillong, the 20th June 1924.

From—The OFFG. COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley & Hill
Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

I have the honour to state that the Silchar Local Board at their Meeting held on the 26th May resolved unanimously to reduce the pound fine for buffaloes in the Silchar sub-division from

Re. 1/- to -/8/- annas, the latter being the rate prevailing in the other plains sub-divisions of this province. At this meeting 6 out of the 7 planting members were present and apparently were in favour of the reduction.

The fees were raised to Re. 1/- in 1916 at the instance of the Secretary of your Association on account of the large number of buffaloes and the damage which they caused to crops generally. Before I forward the resolution of the Board to Government for orders I shall be glad to hear if your Association has any remarks to make upon the Local Board's proposal.

Dated Binnakandi, the 15th August 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley & Hill Division, Silchar.

In reply to your reminder No. 2304-G., dated the 9th instant referring to your letter No. 1809-G., dated 20th June, on the subject of pound fines for buffaloes in the Silchar Sub-Division, this matter was discussed at a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch of the Association held on the 12th instant. I am directed to say my Committee have no objection to raise to the proposed reduction as a general rule; they are, however, aware that in times of flood, immense damage is caused in a few gardens chiefly in the Chutla Bheel area by the wholesale grazing of buffaloes in the tea by neighbouring villagers, in which case a small fine is ineffective.

Pasteur Institute Committee.

No. 2855-59-L.-G., dated Shillong, the 30th July 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam to forward for your information a copy of this Department letter No. 2762-L.-S.-

G., dated 23rd July 1924, to the address of the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Assam, on the subject of the reconstitution of a Committee for the management of the Pasteur Institute at Shillong, and to request that you will be so good as to nominate a member to serve on the Committee.

Copy of letter No. 2762-L.-S.-G., dated Shillong, the 23rd July 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, to the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Assam.

I am directed to say that the Government of Assam have decided to reconstitute the Committee for the management of the Pasteur Institute at Shillong, and are pleased to appoint the following representatives to be members of that Committee for a period of two years for the present with effect from the 1st August 1924:—

1. The Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Assam.
President (Ex-officio).

MEMBERS.

2. The Director of Pasteur Institute, Shillong, *President (Ex-officio).*
3. The Director of Public Health, Assam, *President (Ex-officio).*
4. The Under Secretary to the Government of Assam, Education and Local Self-Government Departments, *President (Ex-officio).*
5. One nominee from the Assam Valley Branch, of the Indian Tea Association.
6. One nominee from the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association.
7. One nominee to represent the Eastern Bengal and the Assam-Bengal Railways jointly.
8. One nominee to represent the River Steamer Companies jointly.
- 9.- 12. Four* members of the Assam Legislative Council to represent Local Boards and Municipalities, *i.e.*, two mem

bers from the Assam Valley and two members from the Surma Valley. These members will be elected by the Legislative Council.

13. The Assistant Director, Pasteur Institute, Shillong, Honorary Secretary, (*Ex-officio*).

The meetings of the Committee will ordinarily be held during the Council sessions.

Dated Binnakandi, the 14th August 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECOND SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam.

With reference to your letter No. 2855-59-L.-S.-G., dated the 30th ultimo. forwarding a copy of letter No. 2762-L.-S.-G., dated 23rd July 1924, to the address of the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Assam, on the subject of the reconstitution of a Committee for the management of the Pasteur Institute at Shillong, I am directed to inform you that the General Committee of this Branch of the Association have nominated Mr. E. W. Hobson, M.L.C., Burtoll T. E., Dewan P. O., Cachar, as their representative to serve on the above Committee.

Dated Binnakandi, the 17th October 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Pasteur Institute, Shillong.

With reference to the proceedings of your General Committee as recorded in para (a) of the circular dated September 16th. I am directed to ask you to be good enough to call the attention of the General Committee Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, to the following points:—

- (a) The Pasteur Institute is now being worked by a Committee, on which the Assam Branch and the Surma Valley Branch are represented.

- (b) The Pasteur Institute is going to issue an appeal for funds for research work.
- (c) The General Committee, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association at their meeting held in Silchar on Tuesday, the 12th August 1924, passed the following resolution:—

" Pasteur Institute Committee."

Letter No. 2855-59-L.-S.-G., dated 30th July 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, on the subject of the reconstitution of a Committee for the management of the Pasteur Institute at Shillong, asking the Branch to nominate a member to serve on the Committee as representing the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association was laid on the table.

The Chairman, being nominated to serve on this Committee referred to the work of this Institute, which he believed, would be seriously curtailed in the near future, if more funds were not forthcoming, and deplored the policy of subscribing only to Bengal, when it is to the Assam Government we must go for assistance in time of trouble. It was unanimously agreed that more use might be made of this excellent institution if periodical visits were paid to it by European and Indian Medical Officers from the tea districts, as a matter of routine."

No. 1425-O., dated Calcutta, the 4th November 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 17th October on the subject of the Pasteur Institute, Shillong.

2. The General Committee have considered the various points raised in your letter. They are still of opinion that the Pasteur Institute, Shillong, should be supported, so far as its therapeutic work is concerned, but that the industry is not in a position to

offer to support the research side of the Institute especially as already such a large annual subscription is paid to the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine for the prosecution of the special Tea Association investigation into Kala-azar.

3. I enclose for your information an extract from a letter dated 21st August received from the Indian Tea Association, London, with reference to the matter.

Copy of an extract from letter dated 21st August 1924, from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London.

Pasteur Institute, Shillong.—It is noted that, owing to the opening of the Pasteur Institute wing of the Tropical School of Medicine, Calcutta, the Assam Government is faced with the loss of annual grant of Rs. 33,000 received from the Bengal Government in respect of Bengal patients treated in Assam. My Committee will no doubt agree with your Committee that it would be unwise for the industry to offer to undertake any additional burdens, in view of the increased taxation which the industry may have to bear in the future and your further promised advices will be awaited with much interest.

Dated Binnakandi, the 9th February 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Pasteur Institute, Shillong.

I am directed to ask you to be good enough to let me know as early as possible what amount the Tea Industry subscribes to the Pasteur Institute, Shillong, at the present time. I find it recorded in an Indian Tea Association circular (Latter No. 1555, dated 4th December 1919 to the Honble Mr. A. B. Hawkins,) that an annual subscription of Rs. 20,000 was promised for five years, but have no information as to the actual amount paid, or the present position.

No. 283-O., dated Calcutta, the 12th February 1925.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Pasteur Institute, Shillong.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 9th February in the above connection. As far as I know, the Tea Industry does not subscribe as such to the Pasteur Insptitute, but no doubt some of the subscriptions to the Institute from private individuals are contributed by persons engaged in the industry. There is a heading in the accounts of the Institute "Subscription from Local Bodies," but this possibly refers to such bodies as Local Boards, Municipalities, etc.

2. I send you herewith a copy of the letter No. 1555, dated 4th December 1919 to the Hon'ble Mr. A. B. Hawkins. You will see that the reference in the letter is to a subscription of Rs. 20,000 annually to the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, not to the Pasteur Institute. The contribution on this basis was paid to the Calcutta School from 1920 to 1922 inclusive and in 1923 it was raised to Rs. 27,200 and was paid on the same basis in 1924. The original arrangement made was that the contribution should be undertaken for a period of five years, 1924, being the last year of the first period. The question of continuing the contribution on the basis of Rs. 27,200 per annum is at present engaging consideration.

No. 1555-O., dated Calcutta, the 4th December 1919.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The HON'BLE MR. A. B. HAWKINS,

*King Edward VII Memorial Pasteur and Research Institute,
Shillong.*

The Committee have been giving careful consideration to the proposals for the re-construction of the above Institute as put forward in your note of 29th July 1919, and they have instructed me to advise you of their views in the matter.

2. It has been gathered from your note that your idea is that the institute should be transformed into a State aided concern

managed by a Committee instead of being conducted, as at present, as a Government department adjunct. By this means it is thought that the Institute will be rendered more capable of meeting public requirements and that with the increased financial support it is hoped to obtain from the interested public the scope of the Institute can be enlarged.

3. As you are doubtless aware the Indian Tea Association has promised contributions of Rs. 20,000 annually for five years to allow of a whole-time well qualified European medical officer being employed on investigations to combat the diseases of the country which affect the labour employed by the tea industry. These investigations are to be undertaken by the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, and the question has arisen as to whether the research work to be undertaken by the Shillong Institute would not be liable to overlap the work undertaken by the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, unless both centres were under the same control or in close affiliation.

4. The opinion appears to be held by some of those qualified to judge, that present arrangements for the treatment of hydrophobia and for the public health bacteriological work of the province are sufficient for local needs, but the desirability for research work and further investigations of tropical diseases in the tea districts appears to be well established. It seems to the Committee that research work should be conducted under the direction of one control; and in view of the complete arrangements being made for the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, the Committee think that arrangements for research work would best be conducted under the direction of, or in consultation with, that centre, instead of by the Shillong Institute acting independently.

5. The Committee are in favour of introducing popular control and to ensure as far as possible close touch between the two institutions, they would suggest that the Tropical School of Medicine should be invited to nominate a representative on the Committee of the Pasteur Institute, and in turn the School would under its constitution, co-opt a representative of the Pasteur Institute to serve on the Committee which deals particularly with Assam problems. This arrangement it is hoped would guard against overlapping and would do something to ensure unity of effort in both branches. Further, it is hoped that the arrangement

would guard against any tendency to remove first-class I.M.S. officers from the provincial to the central institution.

6. The next point to be considered is the question of financial support to the Institute. Before making any promises in this regard the industry would naturally require to know what these expenses are likely to be and what is considered an equitable share from the tea industry. In this connection the Committee suggest that the contribution of Rs. 20,000 promised by the Association towards the School of Tropical Medicine Fund should form the nucleus of a fund to finance both institutions. The appeal for the above figure was made in 1915, and Rs. 22,000 annually for five consecutive years has already been promised. But the Committee propose to revise this appeal, and they are confident that the result will show a considerable advance on the Rs. 22,000 already promised, and it might even be found sufficient for the requirements of the School, and the Institute, when the needs of the latter are known.

7. In conclusion I am to mention that the foregoing views have been formulated after close consultation with influential medical officers in the tea districts. A revised appeal is now being made in connection with the School of Tropical Medicine Fund, and the Committee would welcome a note from you as to the financial assistance required from the tea industry in connection with the Research Institute so that they might keep this in view when making an appeal for contributions towards the financial support of both bodies, in which event it would have to be understood that a certain amount of the sum so secured would be earmarked for the expenses of the Shillong Institute when these are made known.

Measures against the importation into India of inferior and injurious tea.

Memo. No. 3968-71-F.M., dated Shillong, the 10th July 1924.

From—The UNDER SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,
Financial Department, Miscellaneous Branch.

The undermentioned documents are forwarded to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, for favour of advice at an early date.

Copy of letter No. 756, dated the 26th June 1924, from the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and enclosures,

No. 581-O., dated Calcutta, the 15th April 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY to the Government of India, Department of Commerce.

The General Committee have had an opportunity of reading a copy of the marginally noted letter on Letter No. 1-T.C., dated the 2nd April 1924 from the Indian Tea Cess Committee to the Government of India, Department of Commerce the subject of the importation into India of tea of inferior quality and they desire to say that they cordially associate themselves with the views expressed in it. They trust that it will be decided to give effect to the recommendations of the Indian Tea Cess Committee and to make it possible for the customs to deal with inferior teas, the importation of which into India is attempted.

2. I am to explain in this connection that serious efforts are being made to check the sale of rubbishy tea produced in India. The matter is not an easy one to deal with, and it does not seem as if the endeavour to tackle it can be successful unless simultaneously measures are taken to stop the import into India of similar rubbish. In other words, it seems useless for India produces to try to suppress the sale of worthless Indian Tea, if the place of that tea is to be taken by imported stuff that is quite as bad, if not worse.

Letter dated 16th July 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The UNDER SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your memo. No. 3968-71 F.M., dated the 10th instant, together with the following enclosures:—

Copy of letter No. 756, dated the 26th June 1924, from the Government of India in the Department of Education,

Health and Lands and enclosures :—Copy of letter from the Indian Tea Cess Committee No. I.T.C., dated the 2nd April 1924, and enclosures :—Copy of letter from the Indian Tea Association No. 581-O., dated the 15th April 1924.

This correspondence will be laid before the General Committee of this Branch in due course, in the meanwhile the Government of Assam may, I am sure, take it that this Branch is in entire agreement with the views expressed by the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, in their letter to the Government of India No. 581-O., dated the 15th April 1924.

Recruiting for Assam in the Madras Presidency.

No. 942-O., dated Calcutta, the 1st July 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to enclose for your information copy of a draft letter and scheme which have been prepared by the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board as the basis of a representation to be made by the industry to the Government of Assam in connection with the increased recruiting facilities granted to the industry for recruiting labour for Assam tea estates in the Presidency of Madras.

2. The General Committee entirely approve of the draft letter prepared by the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board, and they would be glad to have the views of your Committee on the subject as soon as possible.

3. I am to say that the General Committee consider the matter one of urgent importance, and that being so, I am to make the suggestion that a conference should be convened in Calcutta to discuss the question in its different bearings. I am to ask you therefore to mention a date which would be suitable for representatives of your Branch to be present in Calcutta to attend such a conference. Should it not be convenient for you to delegate representatives to attend a conference in Calcutta perhaps your

Branch could arrange a meeting with representatives of the Assam Branch, to discuss the question and a report of the decision come to at their meeting might be forwarded to me.

4. With regard to the position generally the Committee are of opinion that if a representation on the lines of the enclosed draft is not presented to the Government of Assam with the support of the whole industry, no other line of action is open to the industry with a view to taking advantage of the recently conceded increased recruiting facilities, for it seems certain that the Madras Government will in the near future object to the employment by the Assam tea industry of non-district sirdars in the Presidency of Madras for the securing of recruits for Assam gardens.

Suggested draft of a letter to the Government of Assam regarding increased facilities for recruiting in Madras Presidency.

From—The CHAIRMAN, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

I have the honour to invite a reference to your letter No. 1406-F.M. of 22nd February 1923 to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Law (General) Department; also to your letter No. 7395½-F.M., dated 27th November 1922, to the same address; and to letter No. 2015-A.-4, dated 7th November 1922, from the Secretary to the Madras Government, Law, (General) Department, to your address.

Since the issue of your letter in February 1923, a great deal of discussion has taken place and a great deal of practical experience has been gained bearing on the question of the best way of taking advantage of the offer of the Government of Madras and the extent to which it is desirable to modify the Assam system of recruitment through garden sirdars and local agents.

During the recruiting season which is now drawing to a close 2 important lessons have been learned:—

- (1) That the expedient of sending superintendents, managers, assistants and recruiting agents to the recruiting districts for the purpose of assisting sirdars even

though a special set of rules having the force of law was framed and used to regulate its working has proved so unsatisfactory that all are unanimously against its repetition.

- (2) That the employment of non-district sirdars for the purpose of making new connections in the districts hitherto closed to Assam is not entirely satisfactory. It is true that valuable connections have been made during the past season by this method in several new districts of Madras but the working of such sirdars has in some cases been of such a character as to rouse local opposition and to provide the political enemies of Assam recruiting with arguments and examples which it is difficult to answer.

The suggestion has been made from several quarters including the politicians in Anantpur who have most vigorously attacked Assam recruiting that new connections should be made by employing respectable persons resident in the locality who would be known to and trusted by the emigrants and the general public. In Madras Presidency recruiting by means of paid recruiters is the normal method employed by all of the numerous recruiting bodies except Assam. Although the sirdari system is approved of, when it is true sirdari recruiting and not recruiting by non district sirdars, there does not exist in the minds of the officials or the general public of Madras that suspicion of the professional recruiter which exists in other Provinces. It will be remembered that amongst the schemes discussed last year which might be tried in Madras was that of employing recruiters on fixed pay who would work under the local agents of the Tea Districts Labour Association, the recruits brought in by them being distributed by a Special Committee of the industry in Calcutta on some sort of a pool system. It is now the desire of this Association to make trial of that method of getting new connections in Madras Presidency as a preliminary to pure sirdari recruiting.

I have the honour therefore to put forward the accompanying scheme for the consideration of the Assam Government in the hope that it will be approved and will form the subject of a further com-

munication to the Government of Madras in continuation of the letter of 22nd February 1923 above referred to.

Scheme referred to.

As an alternative to the sending of non-district sirdars into Madras Presidency for the purpose of forming new connections a practice which though successful has been found to possess certain undesirable features which the Tea Industry is anxious to eliminate from its recruiting operations the Indian Tea Association is of opinion that the employment of respectable persons resident in the recruiting districts on fixed pay as recruiters would be at least equally successful and free from the suspicion to which the activities of a strangers are found to give rise in places where nothing is known about Assam.

The Association is advised that such a scheme could be legally introduced without the necessity of amending Act VI, Chapter 5 deals with the engagement of emigrants otherwise than under the preceding chapters. It would not apparently be *ultra vires* of section 163 (1) to frame rules having the force of law to regulate the manner in which emigrants might be engaged under Chapter 5. If the first and most important of these rules was that no person may recruit, engage, induce or assist any person to emigrate under Chapter 5 unless he held a license issued by a competent authority empowering to do so, the danger, that the opening of section 92 would bring into the field unlicensed recruiters, would disappear and full control over the selection of the proposed paid recruiters could be maintained.

In order to provide simultaneously for sirdari recruiting and recruiting on the lines now proposed the notification under section 3 should read somewhat as follows:—

“In exercise of the powers.....the Governor in Council is pleased to prohibit all persons from recruiting, engaging, inducing or assisting any native of India to emigrate.....same either —

- (1) in accordance with Chapter 4 of Act VI, *viz.*, by licensed garden sirdars working under the control of local agents duly licensed under section 64 of the Act, or
- (2) in accordance with the rules framed under section 163 (1) for the regulation of engagement of emigrants under Chapter 5.”

By virtue of this notification section 92 legalises the proposed system but no other.

It would be out of place for this Association unless invited to do so to submit a draft set of rules to be issued under section 163 (1) I may, however, be permitted to indicate the views of the Association regarding the principal points which should be covered by these rules.

As mentioned above the most important rule would be the one debarring all persons other than holders of permits issued by a competent authority from engaging emigrants under Chapter 5

As far as possible a list of the acts which shall be deemed to be offences under Act VI, should be included in the rules. The following would appear to be amongst the more important of these offences:—

- (a) The splitting up of family parties who desire to emigrate together.
- (b) The enticing away of women and minors from their lawful guardians with a view to their emigration to Assam.
- (c) The use of coercion, undue influence, fraud or misrepresentation in order to induce any person to emigrate or to proceed to a particular estate in Assam.
- (d) The buying and selling of persons with a view to their emigration.

The Rules would also provide for the cancellation of licenses when necessary.

The form of license need not be elaborate. It might be worded somewhat as follows:—

"You are hereby authorised to engage, persons to emigrate to Assam and thereto labour for hire and to assist such persons to emigrate subject to the provision of Act VI, and to any rules which the local Government may from time to time frame for regulating the engagement of emigrants under Chapter 5 thereof."

The permit would contain a description of the holder sufficient to identify him and on the back might specify the conditions on

which it is granted. Amongst these conditions the following might be included :—

- (1) All persons recruited by the license holder shall be taken without delay to the nearest place of accommodation;
- (2) The license holder is prohibited from interfering with the operations of garden sirdars and any attempt to entice or buy a recruit from them will render him liable to prosecution under section 164 of Act VI.
- (3) The license holder is bound to give a true description of every person engaged by him, and to correct any misdescription which he knows to be untrue or inaccurate.

In order to ensure that only respectable persons are employed as paid recruiters, the licenses should bear the signature of the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board and also that of the District Magistrate of the recruiting district in which the license holder is permitted to operate.

As per capita recruiting bonuses will not be paid to the license holders and as they will not be working competitively against each other in as much as they will have no relation whatever with individual employers, it is hoped that the scheme above outlined will be free from abuses.

The Assam Temperance Bill.

No. 259-314-L., dated Shillong, the 9th May 1924.

From—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,
Legislative Department,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association.

I am directed to forward herewith a copy, with spare copies of the Assam Temperance Bill, 1924, which was introduced at the meeting of the Assam Legislative Council held on the 4th April 1924, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons and an extract from the proceedings of the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th April 1924, and to request that you will be so good as to favour this Government with an expression of your opinion on the provisions of the Bill.

2. I am also to request that the reply to this letter may be sent so as to reach this office on or before the 15th July 1924.

Dated Binnakandi, the 25th August 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam Legislative Department.

In reply to your letter No. 259-314-L., dated the 9th May 1924, asking for an expression of opinion of this Branch of the Association, on the provisions of the Assam Temperance Bill, 1924, I am directed to forward the following extract from the minutes of a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on the 12th instant :—

“ The Assam Temperance Bill, 1924.

“ An expression of opinion on the above Bill having been asked for by the Government of Assam, the Secretary was instructed to record that this Committee consider that until such time as the franchise is extended to those whom this Bill affects, it is premature and unpractical to introduce any such legislation.”

Proposed Trade Union Legislation for India.

No. 2769-71-R., dated Shillong, the 8th November 1924.

From—The UNDER SECRETARY, to the Government of Assam.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam to enclose a copy of letter No. L-925, dated 30th August 1924, with its enclosure, from the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, on the subject of Trade Union Legislation, and to suggest that you will be so good as to favour Government with an expression of the views of your Association on the proposals so as to reach this Secretariat not later than the 20th November 1924.

Dated Binnakandi, the 12th November 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The UNDER SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

With reference to your letter No. 2769-71-R., dated the 8th instant, together with a copy of letter No. L.-925, dated the 30th August 1924, and its enclosures from the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, on the subject of Trade Union Legislation, I am directed to forward for your information, a copy of the following extract from the minutes of a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch of the Association held on the 27th October 1924:—

"The Committee record that it was quite impossible for them to frame any reply at such short notice they would, however, suggest strong objection should be taken to para. 17, 1st and 2nd of the proposed legislation; they consider such legislation unsuitable and useless to agricultural labourers of the tea garden type, and merely an imitation of Western methods entirely lacking in sympathy or understanding of those they attempt to legislate for in the East."

Proposed Legislation for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes.

No. 2765-68-R., dated Shillong, the 8th November 1924.

From—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam to enclose a copy of letter No. L.-1078, dated the 30th August 1924, with its enclosure, from the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, on the subject of the proposed legislation for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes, and to request that you will be so good as to favour Government with an expression of the views of your Association on the proposals so as to reach this Secretariat not later than the 20th November 1924.

Dated Binnakandi, the 12th November 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

With reference to your letter No. 2765-68-R., dated the 8th instant together with a copy of letter No. L-1078, dated the 30th August 1924, and its enclosures, from the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, on the subject of the proposed legislation for the investigation and settlement to trade disputes, I am directed to forward for your information, copy of the following extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee of this Branch of the Association held on the 27th October 1924:—

“The Committee would record that though they consider legislation of this type sound—the proposals are hardly suitable or particularly necessary for tea garden employee.”

Cattle Trespass.

No. 6112-13-F.M., dated Shillong, the 7th November 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to inform you that it has been represented to Government that the impounding of village cattle by tea garden Managers is a cause of serious friction in some parts of the province. It is contended that the failure of Managers to fence their tea is largely responsible for this, and the Government have been asked to use their influence in the interest of good relation between planters and the local people, to persuade Managers to protect their tea by fencing and thereby remove the danger of trespass and damage by cattle.

The Governor in Council recognizes that there is another side to the question and that the practice of leaving cattle to wander untended is the principal cause of the trouble. The Governor in

Council realises the earnest desire of those engaged in the tea industry to remain on good terms with their neighbours, and is content to bring the subject to the notice of your Branch Association, being confident that every attempt will be made to remove a possible cause of friction.

Dated Cutlacherra Tea Estate, the 3rd December 1924.

From—The MANAGER, Cutlacherra Tea Estate.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your favour enclosing copy of the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam's note regarding the impounding of villagers (Bengalis) cattle, and suggesting that the friction resulting would be greatly lessened by the fencing wire of course is suggested) of our tea.

Speaking for myself my tea is traversed, as far as Cutlacherra Division is concerned, by the Government Road and fencing would be useless. As regards other parts, the villagers deliberately take their cattle a considerable distance across my own land until they reach the tea and then herd their cattle into it. To penalise the gardens to establish good relations with swine like that does not commend itself to me. The practice here is for villagers to plant their own land up to the back and front doors and reserve nothing for grazing cattle who must take to the river banks and their neighbours garden lands.

Dated South Sylhet, the 4th December 1924.

From—The MANAGER, Dauracherra Tea Estate,

To—The CHAIRMAN, Lungla-Juri-Doloi District Committee.

You will have seen the letter No. 6112-13-F.M., dated 7th November 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam to the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association regarding cattle trespass. If it is intended to reply at all to this letter (which recognises that the matter cannot be looked at from one side only) possibly it might be as well to point out that in the Surma Valley the great majority of estates are fully fenced and that a large number of these are fenced with very expensive mesh fencing. These latter estates have

incurred this heavy expenditure in order that there shall be no possible excuse for village cattle entering the tea area. Iron trap-gates have been fixed to allow coolies to pass in and out and cattle, unless assisted, cannot pass these. Fence posts are of iron and fencing once erected ought to require no further attention.

Frequently, by using an area bounded on one side by this fencing, the cattle of large villages is tended by a couple of children where formerly several adults were required.

It is to be remembered that grass, jungle growth and green crops form part of the planters' capital or stock-in-trades and this growth when hoed in forms humic substances which are assimilated by the tea bush and re-appear as leaf. The sound planter then, cannot afford to leave his estate unprotected and is justifiably annoyed when his protective fence is interfered with by villagers who see in the cultivated area of estates a heaven-sent grazing ground.

Many estates also have drainage systems on which they have to expend much labour. It can hardly be said to please a Manager when he finds the work of many weeks has been spoiled by the wanderings of a herd of village cattle during the night and that carefully built drainsides are broken down and choking the drain flow.

What planter has not seen or experienced the following :—

- (1) Fencing cut and posts pulled out of the ground the work of villagers at night (I have never heard of the capture of a delinquent).
- (2) Buffaloes driven at a fence into tea (they either jump the fence or smash it down for smaller cattle to pass).
- (3) Cattle grazing in tea with cowherds watching the roads against the approach of garden chowkidars.
- (4) Cattle driven across rivers to tea garden lands.
- (5) Special paths cleared to allow cattle access to garden areas.
- (6) Sunnkholas absolutely destroyed by village cattle.
- (7) Cattle eating young tea shoots and ruining the careful plucking of several months.

The Cattle Trespass Act has been studied at some time by every planter and in general its provisions are observed. It is therefore scarcely reasonable to expect estates to remain passive while villagers fail to herd their cattle in a reasonable manner, or wantonly destroy valuable fences erected partly for their own protection. It must be a long time since a Judicial Officer heard a complaint by a villagers of damage done by garden cattle. If estates ensure that their draught animals and coolies cattle do not damage village crops, may the said estates not expect reciprocal treatment?

Dated Binnakandi, the 19th January 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

With reference to your letter No. 6112-13-F.M., dated the 7th November 1924, on the subject of the impounding of village cattle by tea garden Managers, which after previous circulation to all Members of this Branch of the Association, was placed before the Meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on the 7th inst. for discussion, I am directed to forward for your information the following extract from the minutes of that meeting.

Letter No. 6112-13-F.M., dated 7th November 1924, from the Second Secretary to the Government of Assam, on the subject of the impounding of village cattle by tea gardens, having been circulated to all members, letters from Messrs. A. M. Chalmers and V. F. Hillier on the same subject, were laid on the table. This Committee would record they consider the following sentence a mis-statement of fact:—

“The failure of Managers to fence their tea is largely responsible for this.”

the real cause of trouble being the lack of grazing grounds in the villages, large herds of cattle being sent to graze in charge of samll boys, who leave them, and

that wire fences are continually cut by villagers at night, and their cattle grazed in the tea, causing serious damage.

Repeal of Act XIII and certain other penal Acts and provisions.

Dated Binnakandi, the 7th November 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

With reference to your letter No. 1317-O., dated the 4th ultimo, inviting the attention to the terms of the Workmen's Breach of Contract (Repealing) Act, 1924, which was placed before the meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on the 27th October 1924, I am directed to say that my Committee consider any interference with the Indian Penal Code as likely to produce a feeling of insecurity and they would suggest that a conference of representatives of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, the Assam and Surma Valley Branches be called to come to a definite conclusion as to the advisability of approaching the Government of Assam for a protective Act to restore to employers some of the protection which has been removed by the repeal of Act XIII.

No. 1697-O., dated Calcutta, the 29th December 1924.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence in this connection resting with your letter dated the 7th November and to send you, for information, copies of a letter dated 12th December, and of its enclosure, received from the Assam Branch. You will see that the Branch are of opinion, for the reasons stated, that it would be useless to ask the local Government to enact further legislation to take the place of Act XIII. The Committee of this Association,

after consideration of the subject in all its bearings, are disposed to agree with the view of the Assam Branch. They feel that any suggestion for such legislation at the present time would be certain to meet with determined opposition in the Assam Legislative Council, and they would deprecate bringing the matter forward with this certainty in prospect. They are, however, meantime referring the matter to the Indian Tea Association (London) for an expression of the views of that Association, and pending a reply from London they propose to hold in abeyance your suggestion of a joint conference to come to a definite conclusion as to the advisability of approaching the Government of Assam on the subject.

No. 73, dated Shillong, the 12th December 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Repeal of Act XIII and certain other penal Acts and provisions.

In continuation of my letter of the 24th October last on the above subject, I am directed to enclose copy of extract from the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting of my General Committee held on the 29th ultimo from which you will observe that, under the circumstances stated, my Association are of opinion it would be useless to ask the Local Government to enact further legislation to take the place of Act XIII.

Copy of extract from the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the General Committee, Assam Branch, India, Tea Association held on 29th November 1924.

* * * * *

REPEAL OF ACT XIII.

At the request of the Chairman the Secretary read to the meeting an extract from the proceedings of the Joint Conference held with the Indian Tea Association on the 28th July 1923, wherein

Dated Binnakandi, the 20th January 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

Pilfering of Tea.

With reference to previous correspondence terminating with my letter of the 7th November 1924, on the above subject, I am directed to call the attention of the Local Government to the following extract from the minutes of a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch of the Association held on 7th January 1925:—

"Pilfering of Tea."

"Correspondence on the above subject from Mr. D. Paterson and Members of the Longai and Juri Valley and the Assam Bengal Railway, having been previously circulated,—it was agreed in view of reports received, to ask the Government to appoint C. I. D. Agents at particular stations on the Assam-Bengal Railway; further to again consider the question of legislation on the lines of a Certificate of Origin."

From evidence recently produced before my Committee, it appears considerable quantities of tea have been stolen from chests after leaving the factory, when this has been despatched from station in Sylhet on the Assam Bengal Railway, and the Traffic Manager of that Railway has suggested and offers to give every assistance to C. I. D. agents who may be appointed to find out where the loss takes place, especially as regards tea despatched from Juri Station. He also suggests that the C. I. D. Agent should be appointed ostensibly as a railway servant.

My Committee will be glad to know if Government will re-consider the views expressed in D. O. No. 5655-F., dated the 3rd October 1924, addressed by Mr. Soames to the Chairman of this Association.

No. 918-F.-L., dated Shillong, the 31st January 1925.

From—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 20th January 1925, on the subject of the pilfering of tea and to say that on a representation received direct from the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, enquiries are being made by the Superintendent of Police, Sylhet, into the two cases reported by the New Sylhet Tea Estates, Limited, with special reference to Juri. Should the result of these present enquiries lead to the conclusion that such a step is necessary and desirable an Inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department will be deputed to the Surma Valley at the commencement of the next manufacturing season.

Sale of tea locally to Assam.

No. 89-O., dated Calcutta, the 16th January 1925.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to address you with reference to the above question which has been the subject of correspondence between you and this Association during the past year.

2. I enclose copy of a letter dated 10th/12th December from the Assam Branch referring to certain resolutions on the subject which were passed by the Committee of that Branch at an extraordinary meeting held on 29th November 1924, at which Mr. Harpur, Commissioner in India of the Indian Tea Cess Committee, was present. I enclose also copy of a letter dated 23rd December in the same connection received from the Indian Tea Cess Committee. Copies of the enclosures sent with this letter from the Indian Tea Cess Committee are also enclosed.

3. I am to ask for an expression of the views of your Association on the proposals put forward by the Assam Branch.

No. 77, dated Shillong, the 10th 12th December 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Pilfering of tea and sale of tea locally.

I am directed to forward you extract from the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the General Committee held on the 29th ultimo with reference to the above subject.

In connection with the resolution relating to the pilferage of tea, I am to ask you to be good enough to request your Committee to authorise you to circularise all members of your Association advising them to exercise greater supervision over their manufactured tea.

I am to draw your Association's attention to the resolution expressing this Association's opinion that all tea concerns should, as an experiment, be allowed to sell tea locally up to one-half per cent. of their annual crop and to inform you that Sub-Committees are being requested to ascertain the names of those concerns who are prepared to sell locally with a view to enabling Mr. Harpur to put the bazar dealers in touch with the sources of supply.

With regard to denaturing of tea not intended for human consumption I am to enclose for your information copy of my letter to the Local Government.

Copy of extract from the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the General Committee, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, held on the 29th November 1924.

PILFERING OF TEA AND SALE OF TEA LOCALLY.

At the request of the Chairman the Secretary read to the meeting the Local Government's letter of the 25th June last forwarding a copy of the report of the investigation into the pilfering of tea by the C. I. D., in the penultimate clause of which it was suggested a joint report should in due course be sent advising Government as to what measures the Association have taken or are prepared to take to protect their own interests and what further action, if any, they urge the Government to take.

A lengthy discussion ensued and it was agreed that unless and until all members exercise greater supervision over their manufactured tea than was at present in existence it would be useless for this Association to draft the suggested report. Under these circumstances the following resolution was unanimously carried :—

That all members be advised to exercise greater supervision over their manufactured tea and that the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, be requested to circularise their members to this effect.

* * * * *

The Chairman then called on Mr. Harpur to address the meeting on the subject of the local sale of tea.

Mr. Harpur thereupon informed the meeting of the results of the enquiries he had instituted throughout the Province in order to ascertain the local demand and stated he saw no difficulty in meeting such demand if he could be put in touch with concerns who were willing to sell tea locally. He proceeded to advise on the necessity for the denaturation of tea not fit for human consumption and the means to be adopted to secure this object, and produced for inspection the Bengal Government's Notifications on this subject.

Considerable discussion ensued with regard to the local sale of tea and legislation providing for the denaturing of tea not intended for human consumption and the Bengal Government notifications issued under the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919, when, ultimately, the following resolutions were passed unanimously :—

- (1) That this Association is emphatically of opinion that all tea concerns should as an experiment be allowed to sell tea locally up to one-half per cent. of their annual crop. That the Secretary ascertain the names of those concerns who are prepared to sell locally and inform Mr. Harpur thereof.
- (2) That the Assam Government be asked to legislate to provide for all forms of tea, such as sweepings, fluff, etc., not intended for human consumption being denatured before being offered for sale.
- (3) That the Assam Government be asked to legislate and issue notifications in respect of tea similar to those

notifications issued by the Government of Bengal
under the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919.

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No. 78, dated Shillong, the 10th December 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,
Shillong.

I am directed to inform you that Mr. Harpur, the Tea Cess Commissioner for India, attended the Extraordinary Meeting of the General Committee of this Association held at Jorhat on the 29th ultimo with a view to arranging for the sale of tea locally in Assam.

He further advised my Committee on the necessity for the denaturation of tea not fit for human consumption and the means to be adopted to secure these objects and produced the existing notifications of the Bengal Government relating thereto.

Ultimately my General Committee unanimously passed the following two resolutions :—

- (1) That the Assam Government be asked to legislate to provide for all forms of tea, such as sweepings, fluff, etc., not intended for human consumption being denatured before being offered for sale.
- (2) That the Assam Government be asked to legislate and issue notifications in respect of tea similar to those notifications issued by the Government of Bengal under the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919.

In consequence of such resolutions I am now directed to address you with the request that the Local Government be good enough to consider the matter with a view to enacting legislation on the lines mentioned in the resolutions.

In support of such request I am to enclose, for your information, copy of Mr. Harpur's letter of the 3rd instant to this Association with copies of the correspondence and notifications therein referred to, and I am to express the hope that these papers will

enable the Local Government to legislate and issue notifications similar to those issued by the Government of Bengal. Without going into further detail I am to suggest that the desired object, in so far as municipalities are concerned, might be affected by notifications issued under section 221 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923. It is presumed, however, that for areas outside municipalities legislation would have to be enacted.

No. 332-T.C., dated Calcutta, the 23rd December 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Cess Committee

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

Sale of tea locally in Assam.

I am directed to refer to the previous correspondence resting with your No. 1530-O., dated 24th November 1924, on the above-named subject.

2. As arranged, Mr. John Harpur, the Cess Commissioner for India, attended the annual general meeting of the Assam Branch of the Association which was held on the 29th November 1924. He has reported the results of the meeting so far as regards the sale of tea locally in a letter No. 83, dated 3rd December, a copy of which, together with copies of its enclosures, I attach hereto.

3. The Executive Committee feel that before proceeding further into the question it would be advantageous if they could be favoured with the views of your Association, and of its Assam and Surma Valley Branches, on the proposals which were discussed at the meeting of the 29th ultimo. I am to ask therefore that the question may now be again considered by your Association in consultation with the Branches, in order that final recommendations may be framed for the information and guidance of the Executive Committee.

No. 83, dated Calcutta, the 3rd December 1924.

From—The COMMISSIONER, Indian Tea Cess Committee,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Cess Committee.

Report on my visit to Assam.

In my letters Nos. 68 and 73 I gave you my proposed remarks at the meeting to be held at Jorhat; the only addition made there-

to was with regard to the suggestion of a standard for tea, and what I added was *that the United Planters' Association of Southern India had at their last Annual Meeting resolved to approach the Government of Madras with a view to having a standard for tea prescribed.*

The item dealt with by me were:—

- (a) *Standral for tea.*—The General Committee of the Assam Planters' Association resolved unanimously to approach the Government of Assam to have a standard of tea prescribed in that province, and that by-products of tea not intended for human consumption should be suitably denatured.

I was asked by the Secretary to give him as much information as possible with regard to the above, and I enclose copy of my letter to him.

- (b) *Sale of tea locally in Assam.*—The General Committee agreed that it would be advisable to arrange for local supplies and some members promised to hand the Secretary the names of gardens that will undertake the local sale; they feel confident that they can give at least three at present, and will circularise members with a view to getting additional ones.

When I am in receipt of the full list I shall undertake work in Assam as outlined in my letter No. 52 (*vide* minutes of Committee meeting held on 17th October 1924, pages 5 & 6). I was in a position to give the Committee information with regard to the present stocks existing in—

Silchar	Gauhati
Jorhat	Nazira
Sylhet	Golaghat.
Dibrugarh	Shillong

Sibsagar.

and also to inform them that my representative has secured orders for 3,536 lbs. of tea *to be despatched from Calcutta.* One member advised the Committee that he had had enquiries made with regard to the demand in some places, and was therefore in a position to confirm my remarks with regard to the large demand for

tea in Assam and after some discussion it was unanimously resolved:—

That the meeting would recommend to the Indian Tea Association, (Calcutta), the advisability of permitting members to sell locally a small percentage of their crop.

Fuller particulars will no doubt come forward in due course, but I would like to take the opportunity to suggest that the Executive Committee of the Indian Tea Cess Committee might favourably consider the suggestion, and in the interests of the sale of tea in India, recommend to the Indian Tea Association, (Calcutta), the adoption of the proposal, as I feel very confident that if a stop is put to the pilfering of tea the consumption of tea in Assam will—unless there is a considerable amount available be—seriously affected. Before my departure to Assam I again discussed with Messrs. Lipton, Ltd. and Brooke Bond (India), Ltd., the question of their opening depots for distribution in Assam, and both raised the question as to from whom they will get supplies, and the conclusion I arrived at after the discussions was that if they can get supplies locally there is a good prospect of their opening depots in Assam for the packing and distribution of tea in packets (not tins); this they can do at a small outlay, no expensive machinery being required. If therefore it is considered useful that such firms should take up the distribution of tea in Assam it will be necessary for some such arrangement as that suggested at the General Committee of the Assam Association to be adopted.

The Assam Committee do not appear to favour the advisability of appointing Kyahs as sole distributors; they considered that any dealer should be in a position to obtain supplies direct from the sources of supply; this I think very advisable, as competition is healthy and will tend to keep down prices. I had a few hours in Gauhati and visited the bazaars there, where the Amchong Tea Co., have appointed a sole agent, they supplied tea at Re. 1/- and their sole agent retails this at Rs. 1/6/-; such profiteering may restrict the sale of tea, and should not be encouraged.

Other items dealt with by me were:—

Tea Industry Film.—I spent an evening in company with Messrs. R. Johnstone, Tea Cess Member), H. M. Clarke, M.L.C.,

and A. Chrystall at Mr. Withers' bungalow when he showed us the film; it is in my opinion an excellent one, and the same views are held by the gentlemen abovementioned. As Mr. Johnstone is a member of the Committee I asked his opinion as to its value for propaganda work and he gave me permission to advise you that in his opinion it would be a very valuable one. On my return to Calcutta I travelled with Messrs. Gardner, (Octavius Steel & Co.), Ward Begg Dunlop & Co.), Dutton (J. Finlay & Co.), and Braddish (Balmer, Lawrie & Co.), and in case several opinions would be useful to the Executive Committee I asked their views about the film and each of them have seen it and told me they thought it would not be possible, unless a very considerable time is spent, perhaps two years, for any one to get a film equal to Mr. Withers.

I enquired—emphasising that I had no authority to make any definite arrangement—from Mr. Withers if he would be prepared to consider the sale of the copyright; he told me that he would be prepared to supply the negative of a film of about 2,000 ft.—this he considers the most suitable length—and give the Committee the copy-right for £5,000; he remarked that he had spent over £4,000 on the production of it.

Not having been in receipt of the present Executive Committee's approval of my acting as above-mentioned, and in case it may be considered by them that I exceeded my duty in doing this I would refer to letter No. 317-T.C., dated 10th December 1923, from you.

The price may, of course, seem rather high but Mr. Withers thinks he would receive an even larger amount in London. It seems to me that it may be possible that the Committee could sell the rights for Australia, Canada and countries other than where we are working, for an amount which might considerably reduce the above figure. There is one suggestion I would have to make with regard to the film and this is, at the conclusion of the pictures showing the cultivation and manufacture of tea, the correct method of preparation should also be shown, but such addition could, I think, without difficulty be made in France for "Work in France" in America for "Work in America," and in India for "Work in India."

Tea Cess Work on the Eastern Bengal Railway.—*Enroute* to and from Assam I had the opportunity of inspecting the arrangement for the supplies of tea at various stations on the Eastern Bengal Railway, and I am glad to be able to report that contractors advised me that there is an increase in the sales. At Sealdah, for instance, the contractor told me that before we commenced work there the daily sale were from 100 to 200 cups, whereas at the present time they are from 1,500 to 2,000 cups per day. At Santahar where we had a stop of over half an hour I took the opportunity of showing the stalls to Messrs. Gardener, Ward, Dutton, and Braddish, each of whom closely examined both the leaf tea and the liquid and inspected the stalls and general arrangements, and I am pleased to say all of them seemed very much impressed with the arrangements. *En route* to Calcutta I was also able to point out the stalls at Shurdi, Ranaghat and Faikati.

I enclose a copy of a letter I have written to the Superintendent of Catering, Eastern Bengal Railway, on the 2nd instant, and if my suggestion is agreed to it will remove the difficulty which there was a complaint made at the last half-yearly meeting, *viz.*, that there was insufficient indication as to where supplies of tea were available.

Bad Tea.—At Jorhat I had an opportunity to discuss with Mr. Chalmers, M.L.A., points about the advisability of having a standard for imported tea, and the thought since struck me that it might be useful if the Committee will allow me to pass on to this gentleman particulars of our representations to the Government of India re-imported tea, and also information and extracts from letters from you or me to the Health Authorities in Bengal and elsewhere—such as contained in my letter to Mr. Roffey—as the arguments put forward and the information contained in them may be of some use to him in the event of questions being asked in the Legislative Assembly with regard to the necessity for having a standard for tea prescribed.

I shall be obliged if you will obtain the views of the Executive Committee on this point.

Denaturation of tea and standard for tea.

Dated Calcutta, the 3rd December 1924.

From—The COMMISSIONER for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee,

To—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Denaturation of tea and standard for tea.

As promised I attach the following information which may be of some use to you when preparing your representation to the Government of Assam.

With regard to the denaturation of tea and the necessity of it, I enclose copies of letters I wrote and copies of replies thereto:—

- (a) Letter dated 22nd October 1924, to the Health Officer, to the Corporation of Calcutta.
- (b) Letter dated 13th November 1924, No. H/2228, from the Health Officer, to the Corporation of Calcutta.
- (c) Letter dated 21st November 1924, to the Director of Public Health, Bengal, (for enclosure see. A).
- (d) Letter dated 24th November 1924, No. 13696-L., from the Director of Public Health, Bengal.

Re Standard for tea.—I enclose copy of notifications Nos. 1268/2906/2907/1269-H.P., issued by the Government of Bengal regarding tea under the Bengal Food Adulteration Act; on pages 2 and 3 of which are extracts from the Calcutta Municipal Bill, 1921, being the details of the new provisions made to prevent the sale of teas of inferior quality (published in the *Calcutta Gazette* Extraordinary of 19th January 1923).

The replies received from the following to representations made by me may be useful:—

- 1. Copy of letter dated 7th July 1923, from Director of Public Health, Bombay.
- 2. Copy of letter dated 30th May 1923, from Director of Public Health, Bihar & Orissa.

3. Copy of letter dated 7th June 1923, from Sanitary Commissioner, Travancore.

I attach also a copy of a letter dated 25th November 1924, received from the Officer-in-charge of the Public Health Laboratory, Karachi.

My object in sending all these is that mention of them may strengthen your representation.

Now when the Calcutta Municipal Bill was under consideration I had to put forward arguments to strengthen my suggestions, and as you may like to be in possession of them I quote below from my letters on the subject:—

“ With reference to my conversation with you on the 19th instant I wish to record my reasons for asking:—

- (a) that tea be specially mentioned in clause 401,
- (b) that a standard of quality for tea be prescribed,
- (c) that tea which does not pass the standard must be denatured before being offered for sale,

BECAUSE.

(a) So considerable is the extent to which the sale for human consumption of exhausted teas, damaged teas, teas mixed with exhausted leaves, sweepings of tea factories and warehouses, and other worthless tea, is now so openly carried on in Calcutta, that not only is the sale of such tea undesirable from the point of view of health but it makes the distribution of good tea more difficult, which in the object of my work and in connection with which the Indian Tea Cess Committee have expended in India over Rs. 23,00,000, apart from the fact that the poorer classess of Indians are being imposed upon because suitable provision is not made in the Municipal Act, to protect them.

(b) There is nothing novel in the suggestion that a standard of purity should be prescribed in respect of tea, for such standards are already in force in several countries, notably Canada, Australia, United States, and the United Kingdom, nor is it novel to suggest that tea should be specially singled out; special provisions as to tea are made in the United Kingdom Foods and Drugs Act; if in these countries it is necessary to emphasise the

even greater necessity for special provisions to be made in India, where tea is grown and consequently for the want of any other outlet it is disposed of locally.

(c) In order to afford sufficient protection against the sale of such undesirable tea, provisions ought to be made in the Act that all such undesirable teas as I have mentioned above should be denatured before being offered for sale; no doubt it is within your knowledge and can be confirmed by your Food Inspectors that at the present time when questions are asked about undesirable teas which are offered for sale the answer is given that it is for chemical purposes, and consequently it is not possible to punish the vendors of such teas.

The English method of denaturing tea is as follows :—

Grind and mix with tea :—

One part of asafoetida,
100 parts of lime,
1,000 parts of tea.

If the authorities in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and the United States of America consider it necessary to protect their subjects in this respect how much greater it is necessary for the authorities in India to protect poor and illiterate, the percentage of whom in India is much greater than in the countries afore-mentioned.

It is possible that questions may be asked in the legislative Council, and the other representatives in the Council of the tea industry in Assam might possibly welcome some information as herein contained, if you think so I shall gladly send them copies of this letter and its enclosures. It seems to me also—if I may be permitted to say so—that it could with advantage be argued that the industry could, if they were so unscrupulous, dispose of sweepings, etc., at the present at most remunerative rates, but in order not to make the distribution of good tea difficult the majority of the industry refrain from doing so the object of the proposed legislation is to compel all the industry to discontinue the sale of rubbishy teas, for the reasons enumerated above.

Dated Calcutta, the 22nd October 1924.

From--The COMMISSIONER for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee.

To--The HEALTH OFFICER to the Corporation of Calcutta.

Captain L. G. Moojen, who was acting for me during the past six months, has given me full particulars of the joint action taken by you and him to put a stop to the sale of inferior quality tea, tea sweepings, tea fluffs, which recent experience has proved, have and are being sold for human consumption; I take the opportunity to thank you very sincerely for your co-operation in this respect.

I would like to make a suggestion which--if adopted--will, I think, help to ensure that the intentions of the Act cannot be evaded as is possible at present. What seems to me to be absolutely necessary is that a bye-in-law should be passed by the Corporation, such as the following:—

No person shall directly or indirectly, himself, or by any other person on his behalf sell, expose or hawk about for sale, or manufacture or store for sale any by-product of tea such as tea sweepings, tea fluff, tea stalks, which is not intended for human consumption, unless same has been denatured.

Sub-Section 59, clause 478, Chapter XXXV, Part VII, of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923, empowers the Corporation to make bye-laws to carry out the intentions and provisions of the Act. From practical experience during the past six months, I think you will agree with me that such a bye-law is absolutely necessary, and I shall be interested to hear if you agree to put the matter before the Corporation for sanction, so that I may advise the members of the Indian Tea Cess Committee, and the Indian Tea Association.

This is a matter about which I previously called your attention, in my letter dated 23rd May 1922, and for ready reference I give below two extracts:—

- (1) "With reference to my conversation with
instant I wish to record my reasons for asking:—
 - (a) that tea be specially mentioned in clause 401,
 - (b) that a standard of quality for tea be prescribed,

(c) that tea which does not pass the standard must be denatured before being offered for sale."

(2) "In order to afford sufficient protection against the sale of such undesirable tea, provision ought to be made in the Act that all such undesirable teas as I have mentioned above should be denatured before being offered for sale; no doubt it is within your knowledge, and can be confirmed by your Food Inspectors, that at the present time when questions are asked about undesirable teas which are offered for sale the answer is given that it is for chemical purposes, and consequently it is not possible to punish the vendors of such teas.

"The English method of denaturing tea is as follows:—

Grind and mix with tea—

One part of asafoetida,
100 parts of lime,
1,000 parts of tea."

No. H.-2228, dated Calcutta, the 13th November 1924.

From—The HEALTH OFFICER, Corporation of Calcutta,
Health Department,

To—The COMMISSIONER for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee.

Referring to your letter dated the 22nd October 1924, suggesting the framing of a bye-law requiring denaturation of the by-products of tea, I beg to inform you that in the departmental proposal for fixing a standard for tea the following occurs:—

"All forms of tea like tea dust, sweepings, fannings, stalk, shall conform to the standards laid down above for tea unless they are meant for purposes other than human consumption in which case they are to be suitably denatured."

The above proposal if accepted by the Corporation will, I think, meet the point raised by you.

Dated Calcutta, the 21st November 1924.

From—The COMMISSIONER for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee,

To—The DIRECTOR of Public Health, Calcutta, Bengal.

I beg to attach, for your information, a copy of a letter I addressed to the Health Officer to the Corporation of Calcutta, in which I outlined my reasons for suggesting that provisions should be made which would necessitate the denaturation of tea sweepings, tea fluff, tea stalks, or any by-product of tea which does not comply with the standard specified in the Bengal Government notifications Nos. 1268-P.H., 2906-P.H., 2907-P.H., 1269-P.H., Since the Calcutta Municipal Act came into force we have been in active co-operation with the Health Officer of the Calcutta Corporation with a view to prevent the sale of tea below the standard prescribed by the Government of Bengal, and our experience has illustrated the necessity for the provisions outlined. The Health Officer to the Corporation of Calcutta replied to my letter as follows :—

" Referring to your letter dated the 22nd October 1924, suggesting the framing of a bye-law requiring denaturation of the by-products of tea, I beg to inform you that in the departmental proposal for fixing a standard for tea the following occurs :—

" All forms of tea like tea dust, sweepings, fannings, stalks, shall conform to the standards laid down above for tea unless they are meant for purposes other than human consumption in which case they are to be suitably denatured."

" The above proposal if accepted by the Corporation will, I think, meet the point raised by you."

May I ask if you would be good enough to recommend to the Government of Bengal, that a similar provision should be made for the province of Bengal.

No. 13696-L., dated Calcutta, the 24th November 1924.

From—The DIRECTOR of Public Health, Bengal,

To—The COMMISSIONER for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st November 1924, and to say that the question of making further rules as proposed by you under the Bengal Food Adulteration Act of 1919, for the prevention of the sale of the inferior quality of the by-products of tea in the Presidency of Bengal is being examined in the Public Health Department.

No. Food/3003 of 1923, dated Poona, the 7th July 1923.

From—The DIRECTOR of Public Health for the Government of Bombay,

To—The AGENT for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee, Calcutta.

Sale of tea of inferior quality.

With reference to your letter of 21st May 1923, I have the honour to inform you that an Act for the prevention of adulteration of food is under the consideration of the Bombay Government.

When the Act comes into force, Government will have the power to fix standards for the commoner articles of food, and the question of including tea among them will be considered at that time.

With regard to the restriction of the use of utensils made from corrosive materials, the question is under consideration.

No. 7408—3T.-12—1923, dated Patna, the 30th May 1923.

From—The DIRECTOR of Public Health, Bihar and Orissa.

To—The AGENT for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee.

With reference to your letter dated the 21st May 1923, I have the honour to inform you that I am advising the Government of this province to adopt the same standard and similar measure with regard to the purity of tea as have been prescribed by the Bengal Government on page 3 of the extract from the proceedings of the Indian Tea Cess Committee sent with your letter under reply.

There is no Act in this province similar or comparable to the Calcutta Municipal Act. All our municipalities are small mofussil municipalities administered under the Municipal Act in which it is not feasible to introduce such stringent regulations.

No. 4277, dated Travancore, the 7th June 1923.

From—The SANITARY COMMISSIONER, Travancore,

To—The AGENT for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 23rd May 1923, and to thank you for the same. There is at present no Foods and Drugs Act in this State, I am, however, placing your valuable suggestions before my Government.

No. 751 of 1924, dated Karachi, the 25th November 1924.

From—The OFFICER IN CHARGE, Public Health Laboratory,

To—The COMMISSIONER for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee, Calcutta,

I have the honour to state that Government propose to take certain measures to check and control the importation into India and to check the use generally of tea of inferior quality which is unfit for human consumption and have asked me to make certain inquiries and carry out analysis of various brands of tea as sold to the public in Sind.

I would therefore be much obliged if you would kindly supply me any reports you have dealing with the subject and any further particulars which may be helpful especially as regards the masses of the working population, what the views of the tea drinking public are whether they know how to make tea and can distinguish between good and bad tea; whether insistence on better grades of tea and the consequent increase in price would be a hardship, etc.

Dated Calcutta, the 2nd December 1924.

From—The COMMISSIONER for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee,

To—The CATERING SUPERINTENDENT, Eastern Bengal Railway.

I visited Upper Assam last week to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Assam Tea Association, and en route to and from

Assam, I had an opportunity to inspect the arrangements for the supply of tea to intermediate and third class passengers on your Railway. It gives me great pleasure to be able to say how satisfactorily, the work is going on, but it struck me and also some of my fellow passengers who are superintendents of large divisions in Assam, what a great facility it would be for the lower class passengers, if by some advertisement they would easily be made acquainted with the stations at which tea and kindred articles are available; this is a matter that can be done very easily. I enclose a paper specimen of the notices printed on tin, provided free by us to the South Indian Railway who welcomed the suggestion and put them up without charge in every third class carriage and they gave the names of the stations at which tea was available. I am quite prepared to supply you with similar notices on tin free of charge, printed in Hindi and Bengalee and if you care to accept them and have them put up in all intermediate and third class carriages, I shall, on receipt of advice to that effect, put an order in hand for your requirements. I think you will agree that it would be very much in the interests of intermediate and third class passengers to make some such arrangement, and furthermore it will leave less room for criticism that the interests of the lower class passengers are not given the consideration by the Railway Company that they deserve. If you agree, kindly give me a list of the stations at which tea is available and I shall have all the names included in the notices. These will of course be railway notices and will remain the property of the railway. It is needless to remark that I make this offer in the interests of the tea industry and to encourage consumption of tea.

* * * * *

Dated Lallong T.E., the 25th April 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee, Calcutta.

With reference to the above subject, I am directed to forward for your information and necessary action, the following extract

from the Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee of this Branch of the Association held in Silchar on the 20th inst. :—

* * * * *

The Committee considered that shops for the sale of tea should be opened at once in the various headquarters in the Surma Valley by the Tea Cess Committee, and the following list of men willing to do this, should be sent to Mr. John Harpur, Commissioner for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee :—

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Addresses.</i>
Messrs. Sen Gupta Brothers & Co	... Silchar.
Anukul Chandra Dutta	... Lakhipur, Cachar.
Dr. Nagendra Nath Dutt	... Silchar.
Raj Bahadur Ramani Mohan Roy	... Karimganj.
Firm of Raicharan Madan Mohan Rai	Karimganj Bazar, Sylhet.
Ashutosh Dutt	... Silchar.
Gopal Chandra Naha	... Silchar.
Barada Kanta Das.	... Silchar & Lakhipur, Cachar.
Jogesh Crandra De.	... Silchar.

No. 140/25, dated Calcutta, the 28th April 1925.

From—The COMMISSIONER for India, Indian Tea Cess Committee,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I thank you for your letter of the 25th April 1925, and am very much obliged to you for the information contained therein. I have taken a careful note of the names and addresses of the firms who are willing to undertake the sale of tea, and when arrangements for supplies have been made I shall then take the matter up with them; at the present moment I am unable to do anything because I cannot put these firms in touch with any source of supply, except from Calcutta. Both the Indian Tea Cess Committee and the Indian Tea Association are sparing no efforts to arrange for supplies, and the instructions received by me from the Executive Committee of the Indian Tea Cess Committee are that when supplies are available then my efforts should be concentrated on the

Tezpur and Gauhati districts to commence with, and when suitable arrangements have been made there, the work will be extended to other districts.

Labour Conditions in Assam.

No. 658-61-C., dated Shillong, the 11th September 1924.

From—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The CHAIRMAN, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to enclose a copy of an extract from the pamphlet "Labour conditions in Assam" recently published by Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A. Attention to this matter has been drawn by a deputation of the General Council of the Trade Union Congress in an interview with the Secretary of State.

The Government of Assam wish to place the real position before the Government of India, and I am, therefore, to request you to be so good as to advise how far the remarks made in the extract from the pamphlet are correct.

*Extract from the pamphlet "Labour Conditions in Assam"
published by Mr. N. M. Joshi, M. L.A.*

"But the worst effect of the labourers living on these vast estates, is that the employees are prevented from coming into contact with any outside influence. No outsider, however, well-intentioned he may be, can easily approach the labourers without making himself liable for prosecution for trespass, with the result that no agency for social, religious or educational work can start its activities among the labourers without the permission of the managers of the gardens. No one can think of organizing unions. Most of the roads leading to the gardens, especially the residential quarters of the labourers, are private."

Dated Cachar, the 17th September 1924.

From—The CHAIRMAN, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 658-61-C., dated 11th instant and in reply to state that I would be very much obliged if you would please give me an opportunity before replying to consult my General Committee, which I will do as soon after the Pujah holidays as possible.

Dated Binnakandi, the 7th November 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECOND SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

With reference to your letter No. 658-61., dated the 11th September addressed to the Chairman of this Branch of the Association, enclosing a copy of an extract from the pamphlet "Labour conditions in Assam" recently published by Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., I am directed to forward for your information the following extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on 27th October 1924:—

"That this meeting views with concern attempts being made by political agitators to gain access to the private property of tea estates. The coolies have no interest in politics. Padres are resident on most estates to attend to their religious wants. Their educational needs receive attention. They have free communication with the outside world as far as they wish. No Trades Union would have the smallest interest for them. The Committee consider Mr. Joshi has no object in view but to upset the contented and well-treated labour forces on tea estates and figure as their champion."

The Committee would add that the whole point is that coolies working on tea gardens very much prefer to live on private land where they are well looked after than to pay for house elsewhere.

Cholera epidemics in Cachar and Sylhet.

Dated Lallong T. E. the 25th April 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The CHIEF SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

I am directed to forward for your information, the following resolution which was passed at a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch, of the Association held on the 20th instant on the above subject:—

“Now that the Doctor Babus are permitted to assist in the inoculation of villagers at the time of cholera epidemics, that the Government of Assam be again approached with reference to free supply of cholera vaccine for the Surma Valley, and so combine and possibly stamp out this terrible disease in this Valley.”

No. 813-O., dated Calcutta, the 18th May 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY to the Government of Assam.

I have the honour to refer to the severe outbreaks of cholera which regularly occur in districts of Cachar and Sylhet.

2. It is realised that everything possible must be done to stamp out this scourge and, with a view to assisting these endeavours as far as practicable, the tea industry is willing to give permission to garden doctor babus to inoculate villagers living outside and contiguous to tea garden holdings. Most of the outbreaks start in the villages and spread to the gardens. It is hoped that this measure will be of considerable assistance in cases of minor outbreaks of cholera. Extensive outbreaks, of course, it could hardly be expected could be adequately dealt with in this way. The position, however, is

that permission will be given to garden doctor babus to inoculate as many villagers as they can. It must be clearly understood at the same time that, in giving this permission, the industry are accepting no responsibility whatever for the provision of necessary medical services to villagers outside the precincts of the gardens.

3. The object of this letter is to ask the Government of Assam to supply free of cost, the vaccine for use in connection with the inoculation of villagers. It is understood that the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, are also urging on the Government of Assam the necessities of the position and are requesting that Government to supply free of charge anti-cholera vaccine for the inoculation of villagers.

4. This Association would associate themselves with this representation on the part of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, and would strongly urge on the Government of Assam the necessity of that Government supplying anti-cholera vaccine free of charge for the purpose of the inoculation of villagers by tea garden doctor babus.

No. 820-O.

Copy to the Secretary to the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, in acknowledgment of and with reference to his letter dated 25th April.

A. C. DANIEL,
Ag. Asstt. Secretary.

Calcutta, 18th May 1925.

**Future management of the Tea Districts Labour
Association.**

Dated Binnakandi, the 7th November 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Associa-
tion, Dibrugarh.

At a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on the 27th ultimo, the question of the future management of the

Tea Districts Labour Association was under discussion and a proposal made that it would be preferable to put this Association entirely on its own feet, separated from any Agency House and responsible to the Tea Association only.

I am directed to ask you to be good enough to consult the General Committee of your Branch on this subject and to advise me as to their views on the question.

No. 489, dated Dibrugarh, the 10th November 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 7th instant with reference to the future management of the above Association and asking the views of my General Committee on the question.

I am to inform you that this matter has been placed on the Agenda for discussion at the meeting of my General Committee to be held at Jorhat on the 29th instant at the close of the Annual General Meeting, after which I will address you again.

No. 76, dated Dibrugarh, the 10th/12th December 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

In continuation of my letter of the 10th ultimo in reply to your letter of the 7th ultimo, I am directed to set out below a copy of the resolution passed by my General Committee at their Extraordinary Meeting, held on the 29th ultimo:—

“That in the opinion of this Association the Tea Districts
“Labour Association should be reorganised as a
“separate organisation with headquarters independent

"of any Calcutta Agency Houses and that the
"Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, be informed
"accordingly and requested to take such action as is
"necessary to give effect to this resolution."

I am also to enclose for your information copy of my letter of to-day to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on this subject.

No. 74, dated the 10th/12th December 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

I am directed to refer you to the minutes of the Joint Conference held in Calcutta on the 30th September last of which the following is an extract:—

(b) *Tea Districts Labour Association*:—Reference was made to the correspondence received from the Assam Branch regarding Dooars recruiting and the suggestion that the Tea Districts Labour Association should have its own separate organisation. The Chairman stated that although this question had been raised privately on more than one occasion the matter had never been considered officially. If, however, the majority of the planting community were of the opinion that the industry would be better served by making a change in the present administration of the Tea Districts Labour Association, proposal to that end should be put forward through the usual channels by the respective Branches. The matter would then receive careful consideration by the Tea Association both here and in London.

I am to inform you that this matter was discussed at the Extraordinary Meeting of the General Committee held on the 29th ultimo with the result that the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That in the opinion of this Association the Tea Districts
"Labour Association should be re-organised as a

"separate organisation with headquarters independent
"of any Calcutta Agency Houses and that the Indian
"Tea Association, Calcutta, be informed accordingly
"and requested to take such action as is necessary to
"give effect to this resolution."

I am therefore directed to ask your Association, in the terms of the resolution, to be good enough to take such action as is necessary to give effect thereto.

No. 251-O., dated Calcutta, the 10th February 1926.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,
To—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to refer to your letter dated 10th/12th December in which you incorporated the terms of a resolution passed by your General Committee at an Extraordinary Meeting held on 29th November 1924, to the effect that in the opinion of your Association the Tea Districts Labour Association should be reorganised as a separate organisation with headquarters independent of any Calcutta agency houses and that the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, be informed accordingly and requested to take such action as is necessary to give effect to the resolution.

2. The question has been referred by the Committee to the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, and the Committee of that Association have announced that they are in entire agreement with the above-mentioned resolution passed by your General Committee.

3. I am directed to address you again on the subject as the Committee feel they can take no further action in the matter until they have before them some much more concrete proposals on the subject than have yet been received from either the Assam or the Surma Valley Branches. I am to ask you therefore to submit to the Committee a constructive scheme in supplement of the resolution alluded to above and the Committee would be glad to have at the same time some statement of why you consider the present organisation of the Tea Districts Labour Association to be unsatisfactory and of the ways in which you think your proposed scheme

would improve the work of that Association either by promoting economies or by increasing efficiency, etc.

No. 252-O.

Copy to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, with reference to his letter of 19th January 1925 and for favour of an expression of views.

D. K. CUNNISON,
Assistant Secretary.

Calcutta, the 10th February 1925.

No. 650-O., dated Calcutta, the 22nd April 1925.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to refer to my endorsement No. 252-O., dated 10th February 1925, with which I forwarded to you, for favour of an expression of your Committee's views on the matters discussed therein, a copy of my letter No. 251-O., dated 19th February 1925, to the Assam Branch, requesting the submission of a constructive scheme for the reorganisation of the Tea Districts Labour Association.

I am now to express the hope that the expression of opinion sought from your Committee will be forthcoming at an early date.

Dated Lallong T. E., the 1st May 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 650-O., dated 22nd ultimo, on the above subject, and in reply I beg to

forward for your information the following extract from the minutes of a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on the 23rd February 1925:—

“Mr. T. C. Crawford addressing the Committee on this subject, referred to the lack of criticism by members, of the present working of the Tea Districts Labour Association. This Committee would record that while recognising the necessity for a very carefully prepared scheme, if economies and improvements are to be effected, do not feel themselves in a position to submit a constructive scheme, which will involve criticism of the present management of the Tea Districts Labour Association. They are, however, in entire agreement with the Assam Branch, that the Tea Districts Labour Association, if separated from one particular Agency House, would command more confidence than it does at present.”

With reference to a constructive scheme for the reorganisation of the Tea Districts Labour Association, my Committee consider the scheme should be drawn up by the combined Assam and the Surma Valley Branches.

A copy of this letter being forwarded to the Chairman, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.

No. 311, dated Dibrugarh, the 7th May 1925.

From—The ACTING SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of a copy of your letter dated the 1st instant addressed to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, on the above subject.

With reference to the penultimate para. of your letter under reply I am to forward herewith for the information of your Committee a copy of this Branch's letter to the Indian Tea Association.

Calcutta, dated the 3rd ultimo together with a copy of the constructive scheme approved by my General Committee at their Annual Meeting held at Jorhat on the 28th March 1925.

Copy of letter dated the 3rd April 1925, from the Secretary, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, Dibrugarh, to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

With reference to your letter No. 251-O., dated the 10th February last, I am directed to enclose copy of a constructive scheme approved by my General Committee in supplement of the resolution passed by them in November last.

I am to inform you that therein will be found reasons for the conclusion formed that the present organisation of the Tea Districts Labour Association is unsatisfactory, and details of suggested economies and increased efficiency.

Copy of a Constructive Scheme approved by the General Committee of the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, at their Annual Meeting held at Jorhat on the 28th March 1925.

The reasons that appear to necessitate a change are based on considerations of economy and efficiency. It is believed that Begg, Dunlop & Co., I.d., up to a few years ago received the sum of Rs. 60,000 per annum for running the Tea Districts Labour Association. During that period there was always some member of the firm available who knew all about the organisation and who was what may be termed an expert in recruiting matters with first hand knowledge of the Local Agents and their depots. The firm thus provided a continuity of control which was of great value.

The present position is that apparently no senior member of Begg, Dunlop & Co., I.d., has direct first hand knowledge of the Local Agents and their depots. It is submitted the present continuity of control is now supplied by Mr. McPherson, who is paid by the Association and not by the Secretaries, and the local knowledge is supplied by Mr. J. A. Milligan, the Superintendent, who, it may be pointed out, is also paid separately by the Association. The control exercised now-a-days by the Committee is believed to be much more direct and effective than it used to be.

The General Committee, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association are of opinion that Begg, Dunlop & Co., Ltd., who have been in a much stronger position to-day if they had realised they were losing touch with an organisation that is growing and spreading to the same degree as the Tea Districts Labour Association, and had detailed one of their Directors on special duty for a year to acquire a thorough insight and knowledge of this organisation, instead of appointing a Superintendent, and also kept in training a younger member of the Company who would have carried out the duties of Mr. McPherson and also made occasional tours into the recruiting districts to acquire first hand local knowledge.

While suggesting the manner in which it is considered Begg, Dunlop & Co., Ltd., should have carried out their duties it is realised it would have been very difficult for them to do this, as many of the old familiar recruiting grounds are now failing and this has necessitated a tremendous spreading out of the Tea Districts Labour Association organisation and an increase of staff to which has to be added the extra work entailed by the taking over of the Dooars recruiting.

It has no reflection whatever on the Secretaries to say that the running of an Association such as the Tea Districts Labour Association now required whole time men who know and are thoroughly conversant with the subject in all its details. These are the reasons for proposing a change and the change proposed it is submitted simple, namely :—

Place the Association on its own feet and in its own office, such office to be near or adjacent to that of the Assam Labour Board Office. Appoint a Secretary who will work under the Committee exactly as the Secretaries do at present, and for this position it is suggested Mr. Milligan, the present Superintendent, with Mr. Mackay (of Jubbulpore) placed in charge of the Calcutta office, a position for which it is believed he is eminently suited. He is also thoroughly conversant with the duties of the Local Agents, and by putting him in charge of the Calcutta office it would give the Secretary time for doing such touring as is necessary. There should be a third European who ordinarily would be a member of the Local Agents cadre and who would be available for acting Local Agents billets so as to keep up his practical knowledge. This

gentleman would be stationed in the Calcutta office in the season when Local Agents are not on leave; and when either the Secretary (Mr. Milligan) or office Superintendent (Mr. Mackay) was on leave. Keeping this member in the Local Agents cadre would, it is believed, be an incentive to other Local Agents and it would also keep a man constantly in training to relieve or succeed the office Superintendent in Calcutta, should he be absent, or when required to act for or succeed the Secretary.

It is impossible for one Superintendent to thoroughly supervise the Local Agents so it is suggested a division of this work and the appointment of two Travelling Superintendents—one could be stationed at Ranchi and the other at Waltair, or any other convenient centres decided upon by the Managing Committee.

The appointment of these men would give the Secretary more time for touring in the Tea Districts and explaining recruiting matters to Managers than has been the case heretofore. It is considered this is most necessary as the ignorance displayed by many Managers of estates regarding recruiting matters is appalling.

The financial side of the question on the above proposals is as follows:—

<i>1924 Supervising costs per month.</i>		<i>Proposed new costs per month.</i>	
	Rs.		Rs.
Secretary's allowance ..	7,000	Secretary	4,000
Superintendent's allowance ...	2,500	Mr. Mackay	3,000
Mr. McPherson	2,050	3rd Man	1,000
Staff of Messrs. Begg, Dunlop's		2 Travelling Superintendents	
employ on Tea Districts		1 at Ranchi and 1 at Waltair	
Labour Association work		at Rs. 1,250 each ...	2,500
including Mr. Henderson at		Cost of Local Agent replacing	
Rs. 750	1,050	Mackay at Jubbulpore ...	900
Mackay a Local Agent at			
Jubbulpore	1,500		
TOTAL ..	14,400	TOTAL ..	11,400

showing an approximate saving of Rs. 36,000/- in a year against which has to be set office rent and expenses.

If the above should not meet with approval, then, why not bring the Tea Districts Labour Association into closer touch with

the Indian Tea Association, on the basis of the Labour Department of the United Planters' Association of Southern India.

The Executive Committee would under this scheme be a Sub-Committee of the Indian Tea Association and the General Committee of the Tea Districts Labour Association and the Tea Districts Labour Association itself.

To put this reconstruction into operation will take time but the former proposal being in no way dependent on it, need not be held back till a decision is reached about the latter.

Dated Lallong T. E., the 3rd July 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to your letter No. 311, dated the 7th May 1925, forwarding copy of a constructive scheme approved by your General Committee for the organisation of the Tea Districts Labour Association, which was placed before the meeting of the General Committee of this Branch on the 22nd ultimo, I am directed to forward for your information the following extract from the minutes of that meeting:—

“The Committee although in agreement with the Assam Branch on the principle of the separate organisation of the Tea Districts Labour Association, were not in favour of the scheme as at present proposed. They were of the opinion that some form of commission basis should be arranged in lieu of the large salaries suggested.”

Bill to define and limit the powers of certain Courts in punishing contempts of Courts.

No. J.-136-1850-51-G.J., dated Shillong, the 31st March 1925.

From—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to forward a copy of letter No. F.-57-1/25-A.C., dated the 24th February 1925, with enclosures, from the Government

of India, Legislative Department, regarding the Bill to define and limit the powers of certain courts in punishing contempts of courts, and to request that you will be so good as to favour Government with an expression of the opinion of your Association on the provisions of the Bill.

2. It is requested that your reply should reach this office before the 10th May, 1925.

Copy of letter No. F.-57-1/25-A.C., dated the 24th February 1925, from the Government of India, Legislative Department, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam.

With reference to the Debates of the Legislative Assembly of the 16th February 1925, I am directed to forward herewith 30 copies of the papers noted on the margin and to request that the Governor in Council will favour the Government of India in this Department with an expression of his opinion on the provisions of the Bill, and with the opinions of such elected officers and other persons as the Governor in Council may fit to consult on the subject.

- (1). The contempt of Courts Bill, with statement of Objects and Reasons.
- (2). Extract from Legislative Assembly Debates, dated 16th February 1925 regarding the Bill.

2. I am to invite attention to the fact that through inadvertence the same case has been twice cited in the Statement of Objects and Reasons to the Bill. The reference to the Calcutta High Court decision in 17 Calcutta Weekly Notes and in Indian Law Reports 41 Calcutta relate to the same case, viz., the case of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

3. I am also to request that the Bill and Statement may be published in the *Assam Gazette* in English and in such other languages as the Governor in Council may deem proper, and that the dates of such publication may be communicated in your reply.

4. The reply of this letter should be sent in by the 1st June 1925.

Dated Lallong Tea Estate, the 11th May 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

With reference to your letter No. 1850-51-G.J., dated the 31st March, and the subsequent reminder thereto No. 2646-50-G.J., dated the 6th May 1925, asking for opinion of this Branch of the Association on the Bill to define and limit the powers of certain courts in punishing contempts of Courts, I am directed to say that the General Committee of this Branch of the Association have no objection to raise with reference to the provisions of the above Bill.

HAZIRI REGISTER.

No. 1342-G., dated Silchar, the 12th May 1925.

From—The OFFICIATING COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division,

To—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Surma Valley Branch.

In connection with the question recently discussed of the difficulty of showing the actual earnings of tea garden coolies I have the honour to enquire whether you think that any modification is required in the present form of hajiri Register prescribed under rule 57 of the rules under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act. This form dates from the time when the method of payment was considerably different from what it is now, and I would enquire whether your Association thinks it desirable that under each date the total sum earned by each labourer on that day whether for task work or for ticca should be entered. I understand that this is already the practice on some gardens and it has the advantage of showing clearly the daily earnings of each person.

Dated Lallong Tea Estate, the 3rd July 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The COMMISSIONER, Surma Valley and Hill Division, Silchar.

With reference to your letter No. 1342-G., dated the 12th May 1925, enquiring whether this Branch of the Association desire that

any modification is required in the present form of Hazira Register prescribed under rule 57 of the rules under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, which was placed before the meeting of the General Committee of this Branch on the 22nd ultimo for discussion.

The Committee were of the opinion that no actual change was necessary excepting that weekly totals should be shown instead of monthly as at present, and column 14 in the Register should be a weekly one.

Assam Land Revenue Regulation—Draft Amendments.

No. 926-O., dated Calcutta, the 13th June 1925.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch Indian Tea Association,

I am directed to invite the attention of your Committee to the draft notification No. 1355-R., dated 1st June 1925, published in the *Assam Gazette* of 3rd June 1925, and to ask you to be good enough to communicate to me the views of your Branch on the draft notification as early as may be possible.

The 1st June 1925.

No. 1355-R., The following draft of amendments which, in exercise of the power conferred by section 155 of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 (I of 1886), the Governor in Council proposes to make in the rules under the said Regulation, is published for the information of persons likely to be affected thereby.

2. The draft will be taken into consideration on or after the 4th July 1925, and any objections or suggestions received in the Secretariat before that date will be duly considered:—

Draft Amendments.

(1) Substitute the following for rule 167 at page 103 of the Assam Land Revenue Manual, 1921:—

“If a settlement holder tenders payment of an arrear from him after it has accrued, payment shall be accepted on payment

of the following fees in court-fee stamps, to be affixed to the challan tendering payment:—

Rs. A. P.

(a) If paid before issue of notice of demand ...	0	4	0	Penalty under Section 68(1).
(b) If paid after issue of notice of demand ...	0	8	0	
(c) If paid after issue of sale proclamation ...	0	8	0	Fee under Section 75, in addition to the penalty under Section 68(1).

Provided that, if the arrear does not exceed 4 annas, the penalty leviable under clause (a) or clause (b) shall in no case exceed -/4/- annas.

(2) Substitute the following for rule 11 at page 107 of the Assam Land Revenue Manual, 1921:—

“If the settlement-holder of a temporarily settled estate tenders payment of an arrear due from him after it has accrued, payment shall be accepted on payment of the following fees in court-fee stamps to be affixed to the challan tendering payment:—

Rs. A. P.

(a) If paid before issue of process for recovery of the arrear ...	0	4	0	Penalty under Section 68(1).
(b) If paid after issue of process for recovery of the arrear ...	0	8	0	
(c) If paid after issue of sale proclamation ...	0	8	0	Fees under Section 75, in addition to the penalty under Section 68(1).

Provided that, if the arrear does not exceed 4 annas, the penalty leviable under clause (a) or clause (b) shall in no case exceed 4 annas.

Substitute the following for rule 171 at page 104 of the Assam Land Revenue Manual, 1921:—

“If payment of an arrear is tendered by a defaulter after it has accrued, payment shall be accepted on payment of the follow-

ing fees in court-fee stamps to be affixed to the challan tendering payment:—

	Rs.	A	P.	
(a) If paid before issue of proclamation of sale of defaulting estate under section 72	0 8 0	Penalty under section 68(1).
(b) If paid after issue of proclamation of sale of defaulting estate under section 72	...	1 0 0		Fee under section 75, in addition to the under section 68(1)."

Dated Lallong T. E., the 3rd July 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

In reply to your letter No. 926-O., dated 13th June 1925, inviting attention of this Branch of the Association to Notification No. 1355-R., dated 1st June, published in the *Assam Gazette* of 3rd June 1925, relating to draft amendments on the rules of the above Regulation, I am directed to inform you that my Committee have no objection to the proposed amendments.

Transfer of Cachar and Sylhet to Bengal.

Copy of letter No. Pol.-1318-2723-A.P., dated Shillong, the 30th May 1925, from the Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, to the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division.

I am directed to forward a copy of a letter No. F.-81-25-Public, dated the 6th May 1925, from the Government of India, Home Department, and to request you to take immediate steps to ascertain the real wishes of the people in each of the districts concerned, and to report the result to Government. Government leave it to your discretion to adopt whatever procedure you think most desirable to ascertain public opinion on this question, but you will of course obtain the views of all Associations representing the various communities.

I am to request that a reply be sent by the 1st July.

Memo. No. 372-73-P, dated Silchar, the 2nd June 1925.

Copy forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, for favour of advice after consulting the representatives of all associations of various communities and such other persons as he may think fit.

2. It is requested that a reply may be sent so as to reach this office by the 25th June 1925 at the latest.

(Sd.) A. BENTINCK,
Officiating Commissioner,
SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DIVISION.

Memo. No. 1673-90-G., dated Silchar, the 13th June 1925.

Copy with copies of enclosure forwarded to the Secretary, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association, for favour of a considered opinion in view of a very considerable administrative change that would result from separating this district from other districts in the present province of Assam. The two districts being considered separately as well as jointly.

2. It is requested that a reply may be sent so as to reach this office not later than the 22nd June 1925.

(Sd.) H. G. DENNEHG,
Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.

Copy of letter No. F.-81-25-Public, dated the 5th May 1925, from the Offg. Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam.

I am directed to invite a reference to your letter No. Pol.-1917-5585, dated the 30th October 1924, on the subject noted above, and to forward for the information of the Local Government, a copy of a letter from the Government of Bengal No. 635-P., dated the 5th January 1925, and extracts from the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, dated the 23rd January 1925. It will be observed that further discussion on Mr. Aney's Resolution has been postponed till the September session. The Government of India consider that in the meantime it is necessary to proceed with the case on the lines indicated in the last paragraph of your letter

referred to above, and I am to request that, with the permission of Governor in Council, steps may be taken to find out the real wishes of the people concerned, and also to prepare a statement showing the financial effect of the transfer of the tracts in question to Bengal. The statement should show as accurately as possible the income and expenditure of the areas concerned, the Jaintia parganas being shown separately from the rest of the Sylhet district.

2. I am to add that the Government of India, though they have an open mind on the subject as a whole, are inclined to the view that while there may be something to be said for the transfer of Sylhet, the transfer of Cachar is hardly a practical proposition. They desire, however, to have a complete statement of the Local Government's views on the matter after public opinion has been ascertained before arriving at a considered opinion.

Dated Lallong T. E., the 22nd June 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

To—The DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Cachar.

With reference to the correspondence forwarded with your Memo. No. 1673-90-G., dated the 13th June 1925, on the subject of the proposed transfer of the districts of Cachar and Sylhet from Assam to Bengal, the General Committee of this Branch of the Association strongly protest against the transfer of Cachar or Sylhet to the province of Bengal.

**Maternity Benefit Schemes for women employed on
Tea Estates.**

No. 1077-O., dated Calcutta, the 8th August 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

The Committee have received from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce a request to be supplied with such information as is available of schemes of maternity benefit in force for women employed in the tea industry. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce have been consulted in this matter by the Government of Bengal and

the present enquiry from the Chamber is to enable them to give Government an idea of the extent to which maternity benefit schemes are already in force in tea industries.

2. I am to ask you to be good enough to let the Committee have a note which they could pass on to the Chamber giving a general idea of the extent to which such schemes are in force on tea gardens in the Surma Valley and the general plan of such schemes.

Dated Binnakandi, the 26th August 1924.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

In reply to your letter No. 1077-O., dated the 8th instant on the above subject, the question of maternity benefit schemes for women employed in tea factories was considered at a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on the 12th instant, and I was directed to reply to the Government of Assam that pregnant women were not employed in the factory on tea gardens, such women being given light or nominal work elsewhere at full rates of pay, and a bonus at child birth as a general rule.

The information you require is, however, on the subject of all women employed by the tea industry, and I am therefore circulating all District Committees asking for information as to schemes in force in their respective districts. I would add that though maternity benefit in the shape of nominal or light work and a bonus at child birth is and always has been general on all gardens, there is probably considerable difference in the way this is applied to suit the varying conditions of different gardens.

No. 2588-90, dated Shillong, the 22nd October 1924.

From—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam to forward a copy of a Bill designed to make provision for the payment of

maternity benefit in certain industries and to request that you will be so good as to favour Government with the views of your Association on the Bill,

A Bill to Regulate the employment of women in factories and mines and on those estates to which the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, applies some time before and some time after confinement, and to make provision for the payment of maternity benefit.

Whereas it is expedient to regulate the employment of women in factories and mines and on those estates to which the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, applies some time before and some time after confinement, and to make provision for the payment of maternity benefit during the period of absence from work due to advanced state of pregnancy and confinement; it is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maternity Benefit Act,

Short title, extent and commencement. 192

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, including British Baluchistan and the Sonthal Parganas.

(3) It shall come into force on the first day of January 1926.

2. In this Act,—

Definitions.

(a) "factory" means a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act, 1911; XII of 11

(b) "mine" means a mine as defined in the Indian Mines Act, 1923; IV of 19

(c) "estate" means an estate as defined by the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901; VI of 19

(d) "qualified medical practitioner" means a qualified medical practitioner as defined in the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; VIII of 1

(e) "benefit" means benefit as provided for by this Act;

(f) "employer" includes an "occupier" of a factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act, 1911, or the XII of 1

- IV of 1923. "manager" of a factory, or an "owner" of a mine or his "agent" as defined by the Indian Mines Act, 1923, or the "manager" of a mine, or the "chief person" for the time being in charge of any "estate";
- VI of 1901. (g) "Inspector of Estates" means an Inspector as defined by the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901;
- XII of 1911. (h) "Inspector of Factories" means an Inspector as defined by the Indian Factories Act, 1911;
- (i) "Chief Inspector of Mines" means a Chief Inspector as defined by the Indian Mines Act, 1923; and
- IV of 1923. (j) "Inspector of Mines" means an Inspector as defined by the Indian Mines Act, 1923.

3. In any factory or in a mine or on an estate to which the
Employment of women at the time of confinement and payment from Maternity Benefit Fund. Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, or any section thereof applies, a woman—

- (a) shall not be knowingly employed during the six weeks following her confinement;
- (b) shall have the right to leave her work if she produces a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner stating that her confinement will probably take place within six weeks;
- (c) shall, while she is absent from her work in pursuance of clauses (a) and (b) of this section be paid by the Local Government in accordance with rules made for this purpose, out of a fund to be established for this purpose and called the Maternity Benefit Fund, benefit sufficient for the full and healthy maintenance of herself and her child, the amount of which shall be determined in accordance with rules made by the Local Government.

4. If a woman dies at her confinement or during the period
Payment in case of death during period of confinement. for which she is entitled to benefit, the remaining sums due as maternity benefit shall be paid to the person who undertakes the care of the child in accordance with rules made by the Local Government.

5. Where a woman is absent from her work in accordance with clause (a) or clause (b) of section 3,
Dismissal of woman during confinement. it shall not be lawful for her employer to give her notice of dismissal during such absence or at such a time that the notice would expire during such absence.

6. An employer contravening any provision of this Act or any rule made thereunder shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.
Penalty for contravention of Act by employers.

7. Every Local Government shall make rules:—

Powers of Local Governments to take rules.

- (a) for the establishment of a Maternity Benefit Fund for fixing the amount of contribution to be paid to it by each factory or mine or estate; for the collection of the contributions and for the management and safe custody of the fund;
- (b) for determining the manner of payment of the benefit to the person entitled to receive it; and
- (c) for fixing the amount of benefit to be paid under this Act.

8. The Inspector of Factories or the Chief Inspector of Mines or an Inspector of Mines or an Inspector of Estates shall have and perform the same powers and duties for the purpose of clauses (a) and (b) of section 3, and section 5 as they have and perform for the purpose of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, the Indian Mines Act, 1923, and the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, respectively.
Duties and powers of Inspectors.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The object of this Bill is twofold:—Firstly, it is intended to prohibit the employment of women in these industries the work in which is regulated by law, six weeks after confinement, to enable them to leave work six weeks before confinement and to prevent them from being dismissed from service during the days of their absence from work due to their advanced state of pregnancy and

confinement. Secondly, during the period of her absence due to the above-mentioned reasons a woman worker should be provided with financial help sufficient to maintain herself and the child in a healthy condition. The money necessary for this purpose is to be raised by the Local Government by levying contributions upon the industries covered by the Bill in the form of a small cess on the products of the industries or in some other convenient form to be decided by the Local Government. The amount to be given to each woman entitled to receive the benefit and the manner of payment and other matters connected with the Bill are left to be settled by the Local Governments by rules made by them.

The Bill seeks to carry out some of the proposals contained in the Draft Convention passed at the first International Labour Conference held at Washington in 1919. If India desires to secure her proper place among the civilised nations of the world she cannot plead her inability to treat her women workers in the way in which civilised nations are expected to do. Moreover, there seems to be a natural desire in the country for rapid industrialization. But if Industrialism is to be an unmixt blessing to the working classes, timely provision must be made to avoid and counteract the evils incidental to the introduction of the new system. There is no doubt that if women continue their long and arduous work in factories, mines and other organised industries even in an advanced state of pregnancy and immediately after confinement their health and the health of their children will not fail to suffer.

Provision of maternity benefit during the days of enforced absence is necessary as without such provision, more prevention of work will be a measure of doubtful utility. It is but fair that the financial burden of the provision of the maternity benefit should fall upon industries that employ women with their natural sex disabilities. Moreover, as only a small proportion of women out of the total number of women employed will be eligible for the maternity benefit during the course of the year, the incidence of the burden will be very small. To prevent women workers from being dismissed some time before they become entitled to the maternity benefit it is necessary that the maternity benefit should be paid out of the general fund and not by individual employers. As the welfare of labour is a Provincial subject it is only proper that the

working out of the scheme for the maternity benefit should be left to Local Governments.

(Sd.) N. M. JOSHI.

Bombay, the 2nd July 1924.

Dated Binnakandi, the 17th January 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

With reference to your letter No. 2588-90-R., dated the 22nd October 1924, forwarding copy of a Bill designed to make provision for the payment of maternity benefit in certain industries, I am directed to inform you that my Committee consider that as maternity benefits are generally given in excess of the requirements of the Act, on tea gardens, the Bill is quite unnecessary as far as these are concerned, and that women employed on tea gardens are far better off than they would be under any such Act.

No. 2867-69-F.M., dated Shillong, the 1st April 1925.

From—The OFFG. SECOND SECRETARY to the Government Assam,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter, dated the 17th January 1925, and to forward for information a copy of the Maternity Benefit Bill by Mr. N. M. Joshi, together with a copy of Debates of the Legislative Assembly on the Bill. I am to draw the attention of your Association to the following fresh points which arose in course of the debates:—

1. The Statement by the mover that he intended the Bill to cover not only estates in Assam but all the organised plantations in all parts of the country,
2. A suggestion that the paucity of women doctors might be an objection, and

3. The question whether legislation should be provincial or central.

Dated Lallong T. E., the 24th April 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

With reference to your letter No. 2867-69-F.M., dated the 1st April 1925, forwarding a copy of the Maternity Bill, together with a copy of Debates of the Legislative Assembly on the Bill, which was discussed at the meeting of the General Committee of this Branch of the Association, I am directed to say that my Committee are of an opinion that the fresh points mentioned in your letter do not arise so far as the province of Assam is concerned, as they do not consider there is any necessity for a Bill of this description.

At the present time practically every garden in the Surma Valley gives three months' full pay to all women on the gardens for child-birth, and the Committee are of the opinion that should there be any gardens which do not give three months' full pay, they should be requested to do so at once.

All gardens have European Medical Officers, so the question, so far as the tea industry is concerned, of the paucity of women doctors does not concern them.

Sale of Cane Mahals.

Dated Binnakandi, the 17th January 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The CONSERVATOR of Forests, Assam, Shillong.

I am directed to forward for your information the following extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the General Committee of this Branch of the Indian Tea Association held on the 7th instant:—

“Reference was made by the Chairman to the sale of cane mahals to out-siders for export and to communications

he had had with the Forest Department, from which it appeared the interests of local industries had not been considered. This Committee would urge that local industries should be able to procure cane at the usual royalty per morah as heretofore."

Indian Factories Act, 1911.

No. 2984-87-R., dated Shillong, the 3rd December 1924.

From—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed by the Government of Assam to refer to this Department Memo. No. 936-42-R., dated the 24th April 1924, forwarding copies of Notifications Nos. 812-R. and 813-R., dated the 9th April 1924, and to request that you will be so good as to favour this Government at an early date with the advice of your Association if the exemptions of tea factories from the operation of the provisions of Sections 21, 22 and 27 of the Indian Factories Act, should be renewed for a further term.

Dated Binnakandi, the 17th January 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The UNDER-SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

With reference to your letter No. 2984-87-R., dated the 3rd December 1924, asking for an expression of opinion of this Branch of the Association as to whether exemptions of tea factories from the operation of the provisions of Sections 21 22 and 27 of the Indian Factories Act should be renewed for a further term, I am directed to inform you that my Committee consider further exemptions from the above sections imperative, on the grounds that the hour worked in a tea factory are entirely dependent on weather conditions and the amount of leaf plucked the previous day.

Assam Settlements Bill, 1925.

No. 325-O., dated Calcutta, the 23rd February 1925.

From—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to invite the attention of your Committee to the draft of the Assam Settlements Bill, 1925 published in the *Assam Gazette* of 28th January 1925 and to ask for an expression of their views in regard to it.

Dated Lallong T. E., the 25th April 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association.

With reference to your letter No. 325-O., dated the 23rd February 1925, regarding above.

This matter was discussed at a meeting of the General Committee of this Branch held on the 20th instant, and I was instructed to ask you to obtain legal opinion as to what extent the tea industry would be affected by this Bill.

This Bill only affects land under certain settlements, and to ascertain how far the tea industry would be affected, it would be necessary to find out the acreage actually under tea under the various settlements; this the Committee have no means of doing.

No. 813-O., dated Calcutta, the 18th May 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letters dated 14th March and 25th April on the above subject.

2. With reference to your request that legal advice should be sought on the question of the extent to which the tea industry be affected by the Bill I am to suggest that you should in the

first instance consult some outstanding local pleader in the matter, someone who is acquainted with the details of the different tenures covered by the Bill with a view to defining the exact points in regard to which legal advice is desired. When the actual points to be referred are clearly indicated a reference can then be made by this Association to their solicitors for an opinion on the points raised.

Dated Cachar, the 8th June 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

In continuation of previous correspondence on the above subject resting with your letter No. 813-O., dated the 18th ultimo, I enclose herewith a copy of the reply received from Babu Hem Chandra Dutt, B.A., B.L., Pleader, Judge's Court, Silchar, our legal advisor. I also enclose a copy of a circular sent to all gardens in the Surma Valley to ascertain under what land tenures the land is held. When replies are received I will forward the information to you.

I am directed to request that in the meantime you will obtain legal opinion on Section 5 (1) of the Bill as to what extent it will affect the tea industry in this Valley to lay before the General Committee of this Branch at their meeting on the 22nd of this month.

There is also another point on which legal opinion is requested and that is with reference to a Court of Appeal against the decision of the Settlement Officer. Apparently at present the final decision rests with the Commissioner. If this is so, it would appear that some other safeguard is necessary.

The Chairman of this Branch wishes to draw the attention of the Indian Tea Association's legal advisors to the fact that "tea" is not mentioned in the Bill.

Dated Cachar, the 8th June 1925.

From—The SECRETARY, Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association,

To—The CHIEF SECRETARY to the Government of Assam, Shillong.

I am directed to request that you will let me know when the Assam Settlements Bill, 1925, is likely to come before the Legislative Council. The General Committee of this Branch of the Association consider that the July Session is too soon, as it will not give them time to thoroughly criticise the Bill, as meetings at this time of the year are difficult owing to the backward state of communications in this Valley.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH ENTICEMENT
OF LABOUR FROM TEA GARDENS AND OTHER CONCERNS IN
the BRAHMAPOOTRA VALLEY AND SURMA VALLEY.

The proprietors or accredited representatives of the several companies or concerns who have signed copies of this Agreement do and each of them doth by these presents mutually bind the said companies and concerns to abide by the following Rules and Provisions which are aimed at discouraging and preventing the enticement, harbouring, detention or employment (hereafter called "offences") of garden or other coolies without the consent of the companies and concerns by or for whom such coolies may have been imported, recruited or employed and at prescribing certain fines or penalties by way of damages for infringement of such Rules and Provisions, which Rules and Provisions are framed and subscribed on the assurance or assumption that all Proprietors, Boards of Directors, and Managing or other Agents or Secretaries of the said companies and concerns may be depended on to enforce due compliance with all awards made in pursuance of such Rules and Provisions, their active support in that behalf being deemed essential to the same being successfully carried out.

For the purposes of this agreement the following definitions will obtain:—

- (1) *Offence*.—A person is guilty of an offence against these rules who employs or harbours or entices any coolie who is claimable, under these rules, by another concerns.

- (2) *Defaulter* means any free coolie who has absconded while under *bona fide* advances to his concern or a coolie recruited by one concern who has proceeded direct from the recruiting district to another concern without reporting to, and obtaining the sanction of, the first concern.
- (3) *Bona fide advances* mean advances made by a concern or its recognised agents and do not include shop-keeper's bills or line debts.
- (4) *To employ and/or employment* shall include special contract work and or under contractors engaged by and/or on the concern.

It is agreed that—

1. All coolies living within the area of a concern's grant or premises are to be considered coolies of such concern whether regularly employed or not, but coolies living in the vicinity of a concern and outside its boundaries shall not be considered as coolies of such concern unless under agreement to the concern.

2. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie (whether under contract or not) who has been imported by another concern, within the period of 3 years after importation, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after the coolie has left the importing concern.

3. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie other than mentioned in Rule 2 who may be under Act XIII agreement to another concern, as shown by such concern's Cash and Agreement Books, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after the coolie has left the concern to which he was under contract.

4. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain a coolie who is a defaulter to another concern, it being understood, however, that no claim under this rule shall be made or entertained unless duly formulated within two calendar years after such coolie has defaulted.

5. No subscriber to these rules shall directly or indirectly entice or endeavour to entice any coolie employed on another concern from such employment.

6. No subscriber to these rules shall employ directly or indirectly or harbour or detain any coolie who has been imported *bona fide* by him and has been employed as a coolie and/or as a recruiter, but who, it is proved, was either originally imported, or employed under Act XIII agreement, or employed as a free coolie, by another concern.

Should any coolie be employed, harboured or detained under the above circumstances no proceedings shall be taken under Rules 2, 3 and 4, but the coolie and his or her wife, husband, child or children shall be claimable under this rule, on tender of the recruiting expenses as provided hereunder in Rule 8.

No claim shall lie in any case where such coolie has been employed as a recruiter in respect of any coolie or coolies so recruited other than the wife or husband, child or children of the recruiting coolie as the case may be.

No claim shall lie in any case under this rule unless made within two years from the time such coolie left the claiming concern.

7. The respective penalties for breaches of the foregoing Rules No. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall not exceed the maximum penalties respectively laid down for breaches of these respective rules in the Schedule hereto. Such sum or sums as may be awarded under this Schedule shall be in addition to any other sum, properly claimed under Rule 8 as recruiting expenses.

8. In all cases in which under these Rules (save as hereafter provided in cases coming under the provisions of Rule 6) coolies are properly claimable from one concern by another and are returned to the claiming concern the claiming concern shall not be responsible to pay the concern from which such coolies return, any sums of money advanced or any bonuses or other like sums paid by such latter concern to such coolies. In cases of claims under Rule 6, where the recruiting coolie and his or her wife, husband, child or children are returned to the claiming concern the claiming concern shall be liable to pay the actual recruiting expenses paid by the concern from which such coolies are claimed in respect of such coolies.

9. Every complaint as to the alleged infringement of the foregoing rules or as to an offence of the kind or nature in such rules indicated shall be in writing signed by the Superintendent or Manager in charge who is directly responsible to the Agents or Proprietors of the complainant concern and addressed and delivered or sent to the like Superintendent or Manager of the concern complained against and every such complaint shall state :—

(1) In the case of an alleged infringement of either Rules 2, 3, 4 or 6 as above, such of the following particulars as are applicable to the particular case :—

(a) All particulars necessary, for the identification of the coolies who are the subject matter of the complaint.

(b) The period, if any, of the coolie's non-expired service compulsory or otherwise :

Such complaint shall also contain a statement that in the event of the non-return of the coolies the following sums will be claimed, viz. :—

(c) The amount of penalty.

(d) The cost of importing and recruiting the coolies when claimed under Rule 2.

(e) The amount of advances outstanding when claimed under Rules 3 and 4.

(2) In the case of an alleged infringement of Rule 5 the grounds which it is alleged constitute the alleged offence.

10. The recipient of any such complaint within three days from the receipt thereof, shall, if the complaint be made under Rules 2, 3 or 4 hereof, and in the event of his not repudiating the same either—

he may retain the coolie, or

(a) Pay or remit or settle the amount claimed in which case

(b) Forthwith eject (in the presence of complainant's representative if so required) such coolie with all his belongings from his concern.

11. If the complaint be made under Rule 6, and in the event of his not repudiating the same he shall forthwith eject (in the

presence of complainant's representative if so required) such coolie with his or her wife, husband, child or children and all his belongings from his concern.

12. In the event of the recipient of any such complaint (whether made under Rules 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6) repudiating responsibility therefor—

- (c) He shall deliver or send to the complainant a written statement recording the grounds on which he disputes liability in the whole or in part, as the case may be, provided that if he adopts this course his liability shall not be affected should the coolies or any of them abscond before final award or payment thereof.

13. If the recipient of any such complaint should fail or neglect to take either of these courses, he shall stand liable for the full amount of the claim and/or penalties provided by the rules as the case may be.

14. If the dispute be not otherwise adjusted, the complainant may send—

- (a) to the Secretary of the Assam Branch :—

- (i) when the complainant concern and the concern complained against are both in the Brahmaputra Valley;
- (ii) when the complainant concern is in the Surma Valley and the concern complained against is in the Brahmaputra Valley;

- (b) to the Secretary of the Surma Valley Branch :—

- (i) when the complainant concern and the concern complained against are both in the Surma Valley;
- (ii) when the complainant concern is in the Brahmaputra Valley and the concern complained against is in the Surma Valley;

under registered post, a full copy of his complaint and of the other side's statement to be adjudicated upon by a Court of Arbitration

to be constituted in accordance with the following Rules and Bye-Laws, *viz.* :—

RULES FOR ARBITRATIONS.

- (a) The Court shall be constituted by the Branch Committee on receipt of the papers which must contain the full complaint as set out in Rule 9.
- (b) The Court shall consist of three Arbitrators who shall be selected by the Branch Committee from any recognised and impartial tea planters or local representatives of concerns other than tea concerns who are willing to serve.
- (c) The Court appointed as aforesaid shall elect their own Chairman.
- (d) The Court may call for such evidence whether oral or documentary as they require to enable them to deal with any matter coming before them, and the parties to the arbitration or their agents or representatives shall if required submit to examination on oath or affirmation in relation to the matters in dispute and shall produce before the Court all books, papers, accounts or other documents in their possession or power which may be required or called for and do all other things which the Court may require.
- (e) The decision of the majority of the Court shall be taken as the decision of the Court.
- (f) The names of the arbitrators constituting the Court shall not be ordinarily disclosed to the parties nor shall the parties be entitled to such information as of right but the whole question shall be in the absolute discretion of the Branch Committee.
- (g) The non-disclosure of the said names shall not in any case affect the validity of the proceedings or any Award made therein nor afford any ground for objection to the filing of the Award.
- (h) If any Arbitrator declines or fails to act or dies or becomes incapable of acting the Branch Committee may

substitute a new arbitrator in his place and the Court so reconstituted shall proceed with the arbitration with liberty to act on the record of the proceedings as then existing (if any) or to commence the arbitration *de novo*, as they may decide.

- (i) The Court may at their own instance before making their final Award and at the expense of the parties consult, refer to and act on the advice, recommendations or suggestions of any two impartial tea planters or local representatives of concerns other than tea concerns not being in any way interested in or connected with either concern involved in the dispute.
- (j) The Court may also at the like expense of the parties consult and take the advice of Solicitors or Counsel upon any question of law evidence, practice or procedure arising in the course of the reference, or as to the form and nature of their Award.
- (k) The Court shall make their Award in writing within 30 days from the time of entering upon the reference or within such extended time as they may notify. Such Award shall be signed by the Court and when completed a copy shall be sent by them to the Branch Committee who shall forward a copy to each of the parties interested.
- (l) The parties shall in all matters abide by and obey the Award which shall be binding on the parties and their respective representatives.
- (m) Alteration in the constitution of any Firm Company or Concern being a party to the arbitration either by resignation death or in any other manner either before or after making the award shall not operate as a revocation of the submission or invalidate any proceedings on the arbitration or any award.
- (n) Neither of the parties shall bring or prosecute any suit or proceedings whatever against the Court or any member thereof for and in respect of the matters in dispute or any of them nor any such suit or proceed-

ings against the other party except for the purpose of enforcing the Award.

- (o) The decision of the Court shall be final. All procedure not otherwise hereby provided for shall be regulated by the Court and no objection shall be taken or entertained by reason of any irregularity in procedure.
- (p) The Court shall have power to award a sum to cover costs and expenses of any party to the arbitration and to direct by and to whom the same shall be paid.
- (q) Subject as aforesaid the Court shall not by their decision or award impose larger sums by way of damages than those prescribed according to the scale and under the provisions in the Schedule hereof.

15. After constitution of the Court as aforesaid the Branch Committee shall give notice by registered post to both parties of the place and date and time when and where the dispute will be investigated and either party may appear in person or by any tea garden Superintendent or Manager or by the local representative of a concern other than a tea concern to conduct his case but neither side shall be at liberty to be represented by counsel, attorney or any legal adviser.

16. Upon receipt of such notice the concern complained against shall have the right to forward to the Secretary a further copy of his written statement of the grounds upon which liability is disputed.

17. Failing satisfactory settlement or compliance with an award, by the Superintendent or Manager of the concern involved, the case first shall be reported for action to the Proprietors, Boards or Agents concerned. If no satisfactory action is taken within sixty days after such report by the Proprietors, Boards or Agents of the concern involved, the other party shall be at liberty to take such steps to enforce his Award under the Civil Procedure Code or otherwise as may be open to him.

18. In the case of a company or private concern being signatory to these Rules, it is understood that the same apply to all branches of the said company or private concern, whether devoted to the culture of tea or other produce or to other industrial pursuits.

19. These provisions shall be binding on any other tea company or concern on whose behalf these presents or a copy thereof be hereafter signed by its proprietor or accredited representative.

20. This agreement shall continue until terminated by six calendar months' notice in writing, such notice to be addressed to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

Date

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO.

1. For an offence against Rule 2 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 300 for each coolie for the first offence, and of Rs. 500 for each coolie for a second or subsequent offence, such penalty to be in addition to any sum awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.
2. For an offence against Rule 3 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 200 for each coolie for the first offence and of Rs. 300 for each coolie for a second or subsequent offence, such penalty to be in addition to any sum awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.
3. For an offence affecting any coolie who is a defaulter to another concern as provided under Rule 4, the penalty will be Rs. 50 for each coolie in addition to payment of all *bona fide* advances shown against such coolie in the concern books and such sum as may be awarded by way of damages under Clause 4 hereof.
4. For an offence against Rule 5 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 500 for the first offence and of Rs. 1,000 for a second or subsequent offence, irrespective of any penalties which may have been previously enforced under Rules 2, 3 and 4.
5. For failure to comply with the terms of Rule 6 the penalty will be a maximum sum of Rs. 1,000 for each offence.

Circular No. 21, dated Calcutta, the 24th July 1924.

From—The ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, Indian Tea Association,

To—All SIGNATORIES and NON-SIGNATORIES to the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys Labour Rules Agreement.

The accompanying statement showing the position of signatories to the Labour Rules Agreement in the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys is published for the information of all signatories and non-signatories. Signatories to the Agreement represent approximately 90% and 86% of the total acreage under tea in each of the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys respectively and this statement is as complete as the information available here admits. As discrepancies may be found in it, I shall be glad to receive notification of any inaccuracies with a view to rectifying these in a subsequent issue.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both).	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Ahmedy Tea Estate ...	.....	...	176	
All-India Tea and Trading Co., Ltd.	.....	...	.....	312
Allynugger Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I & L.	.....	2,613
Alyne-Pathemara Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	967
Amalgamated Tea Estates Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	5,393	324
Amaranagar Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	100
Amgoorie Tea Estate, Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	3,314	
Amluckie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	851	
Amo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I & L.	.....	1,324
Anandabag Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.	I.	75	
Anglo-American Direct Trad- ing Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	3,174	636
Annapurna Tea Co., Ltd. ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....	287
Arenttipore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. Mackillican & Co.	I.	.. ..	836
Aryan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	.....	300
Assam Co., Ltd. ...	Kilburn & Co.	I.	12,546	
Assam Dooars Tea Co., Ltd. ... (Orangajuli)	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I & L.	992	
Assam Estates, Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	823	
Assam Frontier Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	L.	8,512	
Assam Frontier Tea Seed Syndicate.	.....	...	.....
Assam Indigo, Ltd. ...	Mrs. L. G. Tuns- tall.	...	.....
Assam Proper Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Chatterjee, Gangulee & Co.	I.	120	
*Assam Blys. & Trading Co., Ltd.	Agent & General Manager.	I.	500	
Assam Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Industrial Agency, Ltd.	...	.....	105
Assam United Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,254	
Attabaree Tea Estate ...	J. Mackillican & Co.	I.	784	
Attareekhat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	2,919	

*Includes only Bogapani Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Aylabarree Tea Estate ...	National Trading Syndicate.	...	.....
Badalipar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	3,278	
Baghjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	320	
Baghmari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	458	
Bahoni Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	200	
Balijan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,076	
Balimara & Balijan Tea Con- cern	Balmer, Lawrie & Co., Ltd.	...	212	
Baloma Tea Estate ...	.....	...	205	
Ballacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ..	J. S. & Co.	I.	.....	930
Bangaon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	1,049	
*Baragara Tea Estate ...	G. W. & Co.	...	.....
Barnoom (Sylihet) Tea Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	4,066
Barampur Tea Estate ...	K. Ahmed	...	.....
Barduar Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	370	
Bargang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,716	
Barguree Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Bashbarree Tea Estate ...	.....	...	60	
Basmatia Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	302	
Bateli Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	400	
Bazaloni Tea Co. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	501	
Behubor Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,070	
Bengal Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Bengal Tea Co.	...	200	
Bengal United Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. S. & Co.	I.	1,088	4,547
Betjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co.	I.	435	
†Bettybari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	(See note below)	...	.....
Bhamun Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	550	
Bhootia Chang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	I.	884	

*Is a division of the Gour Nitte Tea Co., Ltd.

†Is merged in the Terapore Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Bhubandhar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	652
Bhubrighat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. J. Lamb	L.	.....	680
Bidyanagar Tea Estate ...	Martin & Co.	...	.....	1,078
Bijlijan Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	60	
Birkmyre Bros. (Kamrup Jute Cultivation)	.....	...	.....
Bishnath Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	3,504	
Bogabagh Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	408	
Bogidholla Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	351	
Bokakhat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	487	
Bonmali Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	250	
Borahi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	414	
Borasali Tea Co., Ltd. ...	I. P. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Borbheel Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	698	
Bordubi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,206	
Borelli Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	2,113	
Borhat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	1,611	
Borbholla Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	Barlow & Co.	I.	.....
Borjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,042	
Bormajan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I.	450	
Borokai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I & L.	.....	853
Boroi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	743	
Borpani Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Villiers, Ltd.	...	300	
Borpatra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Borpukhuri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	576	
Borsoikota Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	250	
Borting Tea Estate ...	.....	...	185	

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both).	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Bosabarie Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	180	
Brae & Chingoor Tea Estates, Ltd.	Barlow & Co.	I.	2,034	
Brahmancherra Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Brahmaputra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	4,842	
Brahmaputra-Himalaya Tea Co., Ltd.	Martin & Co.	..	310	
British Assam Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	L.	1,332	
British Indian Tea Co., Ltd. ..	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	996	908
Budderpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	500
Budla Beta Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	L.	2,709	
Bukhial Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	313	
Burdwar Tea & Timber Co., Ltd.	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	270	
Bnrkhola Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	200
Burrapahar Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	55	
Cachar & Doorga Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	I.	.....	2,747
Cachar Native Joint Stock Co., Ltd.	B. V. Gupta, (Manager)	...	.....	1,180
Central Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	I.	.....	1,460
Chandpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	L.	.....	1,539
Chandmary Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	140	
Chandypore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. S. & Co.	I.	.....	790
Chapani Tea Estate ...	.....	...	50	
Chapanullah Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	268	
Chardwar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co.	L.	382	
Chargola Tea Assocn., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	3,980
Cheerie Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	Barry & Co.	L.	.....	588
Chenijan Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	160	
Chicknagool Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	180
Chincoorie Tea Co., (1920) Ltd.	Villiers, Ltd.	...	.....	500

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both).	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Sarma Valley.
Choonsali Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	300	
Chowkidingi Tea Estates, Ltd.	S. F. & Co., Ltd.	...	765	
Chubwa Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I & L	3,978	
Chundeecherra Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	555
Clarence Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Clevedon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	488
Consolidated Tea & Lands Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	5,248	15,978
Cooliekoosie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	493	
Corramore Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co., Ltd.	I.	990	
Cossipore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	659
Craigpark Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	L.	.....	408
Cutlacherra Tea Estate ...	A. M. Chalmers	...	.....	273
Dahingeapar Tea Estate ...	R. D. & Co.	I.	562	
Dalhousie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I.	700	
Dalowjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	238	
Dauracherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co.	I.	.....	576
Deamoolie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	1,303	
Debapur Tea Estate ...	.....	...
Deckiajulie Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	390	
Deelechee Merbeel Estate ...	.....	...	173	
‡Dehing Estates ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	...		
Dejoo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. I. & Co., Ltd.	L.	915	
Dejoo Valley Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	255	
Dekhari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	1,738	
Derby Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	1,153
*Desang Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Desai & Parbutia Tea Co., Ltd.	G. H. & Co.	I.	1,418	

‡Now consist of Bhamun Hingrijan, Khowang, Rajghar and Tinkong Companies.

*Incorporated in the Jorehat Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Deundi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	2,849
Dhamai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	1,708
Dhelakhat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	397	
Dhendai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	679	
Dhoolie Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	765	
† Dhullie Estate ...	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	...		
Dhunseri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	492	
Dibru Darrang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Tea Estates India Ltd.	I.	588	
Dibru Dooars Tea Co., Ltd. ...	I. P. A. & Co., Ltd.	...	1,600	
Dildarpur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Chatterjee, Gangulee & Co.	I.	.....	325
Dilkhoosh Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	479
Dilkhusha Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Pandit & Co.	...	.....
Dimakhusi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	658	
Dirai Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	100	
Dixa Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	80
Dolaguri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	500	
Doloi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	.....	600
Doloo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	.....	1,449
Doodpatlee Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,444
Doolahat Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	873	
Dooloogram Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	447	1,185
Doom Dooma Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	5,840	
Doorin Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	L.	1,008	
Doyang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	520	
Doyapure Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. G. & Co.	I.	.....	423
Dr. D. O'Briens Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	506	
Duckingole Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Dufflaghur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	600	

† Is a division of Talkrong Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Dulcherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	570
Durgabari Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	80	
Durganagar Tea Estate ...	.....	...	...	105
Durrang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Kilburn & Co.	I.	570	
Eastern Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	Barry & Co.	L.	3,330	
East India Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,552	
East India & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	I.	...	2,180
Eastern Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	1,103
Eastern Hindusthan Tea Co., Ltd.	Pandit & Co.	...	...	150
Eastern Tea & Trading Co., Ltd.	I. P. A. Co., Ltd.	...	800	
Eastern Tea Corporation, Ltd.	.....	...	...	150
Empire of India & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd.	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	5,769	
Endogram Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	756
Kraligool & Binodini Tea Estates	J. B. Marshall, Manager.	...	...	742
Furkating Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	105	
Ghazipore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	...	570
Ghoir Allie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	510	
Gillapukri Tea & Seed Co., Ltd.	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	400	
Gingia Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I & L.	705	
Gobindpore Tea Estate ...	G. C. Dutt.	...	...	906
Gohpur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	442	
Gosaiebarrie Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	182	
Greenwood Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	1,730	
Gour Nitye Tea Co., Ltd. (Baragara).	G. W. & Co.	...	325	
Grob Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,115	
Halem Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	1,000	

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both).	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Halisabari Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	I.	...	
*Halmari Tea Estate ...	(See foot note)	I.	...	
Halmirah Tea Estate ...	B. D. & Co., Ld.	I.	491	
Halmiramukh Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	160	
Hapjan Parbat Tea Co., Ld. ...	Villiers, Ld.	...	220	
Harish Nagar Tea Co. Ld. ...	.....	...	...	1,600
Harmutty Tea Co., Ld. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	833	
Hatijan Tea Seed Syndicate	.....	...	...
Hattigor Tea Estate ...	.....	...	60	...
Hattikhira Tea Co., Ld. ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	I.	.....	2,730
† Hantley Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ld.	...	.....	...
Haveda Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ld.	...	75	...
Hill Tipperah Tea Syndicate, Ld.	Planters Society	...	.....	752
Hindusthan Tea & Fishery, Ld.	.....	...	.....	310
Hingrija Tea Co., Ld. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I.	595	...
Hoograjuli (Assam) Tea Co., Ld.	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I.	406	...
Hoolangoorie Tea Co., Ld. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ld.	I.	1,235	...
Haroochorai Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....	...
Hunwal Tea Co., Ld. ...	G. B. & Co.	I.	1,514	...
Imperial Tea Co., Ld. ...	McLeod & Co.	I. & L.	2,316	2,200
Indeswar Tea & Trading Co., Ld.	G. C. Dutt.	...	.....	896
Indian National Trading & Planting Corporation, Ld.	I. P. Agency Co., Ld.	...	100	...
Indian Tea Corporation, Ld. Julia Tea Estate Mandakata Tea Estate.	S. W. & Co.	...	200	...
Indian Tea Co. of Cachar, Ld.	D. B. & Co., Ld.	I. & L.	.....	1,304
Indian Tea & Commerce, Ld.	Planters Guild	...	.....	310
Industrial Development Co., Ld.	Sylhet Tea Syndi- cate (Committee)	...	.....	254

* Proprietor Amrawati Tea Co., Ld., Jalpaiguri.

† Is a division of the Badalipur Tea Co., Ld.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley	Surma Valley.
Iringmara Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	.....	358
Isa Bheel Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	905
Itakhoolie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	855	...
Jagdnar Tea Estate ...	Ditto ...	...	100	...
Jaipur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	1,114	
Jalalnagar Tea Estate ...	All-India Tea & Trading Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Jalinga Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I. & L.	... ..	750
Jatlibari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co.	I.	834	
Jetinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	2,534
Jhanzie Tea Association, Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	4,666	
Jhirighat (Native) Tea Concern	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	352
Jokai (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	L.	11,484	
Joonktoolee Tea Co., Ltd. ...	K. B. & Co.	I.	575	
† Jorehaut Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	10,025	
Kacharigaon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	718	
Kakadanga Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....
Kalacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	463
Kahnagar Tea Estate ...	Bharat Samity, Ltd.	...	.....	642
Kaliti Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	400
Kalline Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,354
Kallinugger & Khorcel Tea Co., Ltd.	J. S. & Co.	I.	.....	586
Kamrup Tea Association (Amchong)	.....	...	400	
Kanan Devan Hills Produce Co., Ltd.	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	8,205	
Karimganj Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Eastern Commer- cial Union.	...	.....	375
Kathoni Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	100	
Khonajan Tea Estate ...	.....	...	110	
Khonikor Tea Estate ...	Barry & Co.	I.	428	

† Includes Noahabar Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Khongea Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	594	
Khowang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	572	
Killing Valley Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	579	
Kingsley Golaghat Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	I.	1,677	
Kirtikona Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Mitra & Co.	...	.....
Koliabur & Seconce Tea Co., Ltd.	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,231	
Kookeecherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I & L.	.....	1,779
Koomsong Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,000	
Koshogan Tea Seed Syndicate	.....	...	95	
Koyah Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	709
Kuhum Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....
Kunchanpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	547
Kuturi Tea Co., (1920) Ltd. ...	Villiers, Ltd.	...	300	
Kyang Tea Seed Estate ...	S. W. & Co.	...	.....
Lackatoorah Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Mackillican & Co.	I.	.....	1,178
Ladoigore Tea Estate ...	.....	...	20	
*Lalchand Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	95,820
Lalkura Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Mackillican & Co.	...	110	
Langboi Tea Estate ...	.....	...	75	
Lankashi Tea and Seed Estate	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	120	
Latasil Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Ledo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	989	
Lepetkatta Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	951	
Letekoonjan Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	470	
Limbuguri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	599	
Longai Valley Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	1,931

* Lalchand Tea Estate is a division of the Deundi Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Loobah Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	1,166
Looksan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	904
‡Luckicherra Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Lukwah Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,255	
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co.	I.	.....	5,092
Luskerpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	L.	.....	1,015
Luxmi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Davenport & Co.	...	550	
Madarkhat Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	166	
Madhapur Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....
Madhuting Tea Estate ...	.....	...	125	
Madoora Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	176
Mahora Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Majagram Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,280
Makum (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	2,026	
Majuli Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	3,761	
Mangaldai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	885	
Manipur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co.	I.	.....	528
Mantala Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	.....	350
Marangi Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	208	
Maud Tea & Seed Co., Ltd. ...	H. C. Garbett ...	I.	.....
Maulvie Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Kilburn & Co.	I.	.....	500
Mazdechee Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L & I.	.....	660
Mazengah Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....
Meekla Nuddy Saw Mills Co., Ltd.	.....	...	.....
*Medlajan Tea Estate ...	I. P. Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Meleng Estate ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I & L.	1,641	
Methoni Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	341	
Meruahola Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....

‡ Luckicherra is included in Duckingole Tea Estate.

* Is a division of the Borasahi Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
†Mertinga Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	342
Mirzapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....
Mittunguri Seed Garden ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	65	
Moabund Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	3,499	
Modhupur Tea Estate ...	.....	...	225	
Moheema, Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	693	
Mohamedpur Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	332
Mokalbari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	I.	702	
Mokrung Tea Co., Ltd. ...	National A. Co. Ltd.	...	480	
Monmoy Tea Estate ...	Balmer, Lawrie & Co., Ltd.	I.	480	
Monmohinipur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. W. Figgis & Co.	I.	335	
Moolan Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Moominecherna Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	200
Moran Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,900	
Mornni Tea Estate ...	Lynall Marshall & Co.	...	520	
Mothola Co., Ltd. ...	K. B. & Co.	I.	455	
Motijan Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	78	
Muddanpore Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....	227
Modoijan Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	317	
†Muraicherna Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	303
Murphulani Tea Co. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	232	
Naga Hills Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Indian Planters Agency Co., Ltd.	...	550	
Nagenganj Tea Co., Ltd. ...	...	...	.....
Naharkatiya, Ltd. (Saw Mill)	I. P. A. Co., Ltd.	...	...
Nahorhabi Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	880	
Nahorjan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. H. & Co.	I.	800	
Namburnadi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	773	
Namdang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,035	

† Mertinga is a division of the Deundi Tea Co., Ltd.

‡ Is a garden of the Prithimpesa Wards Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
+Narayanpur Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
National Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. M. Bose ...	...	500	
Nepaphoo Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	43	
New Assam Valley Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneill & Co.	I.	375	
New Cinnatollah Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	965	
New Darrang Tea Corpora- tion, Ltd.	I. P. A. Co., Ltd.	..	200	
New Monkhoosi Tea Co., Ltd.	Macneill & Co.	I	456	
New Eastern Tea and Trad- ing Co., Ltd.	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	I.	640	
New Indian Tea Corporation, Ltd.	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	I.	277	
New Samanbagh Tea Co., Ltd.	S. W. & Co.	I.	.....	949
New Sylhet Tea Estates, Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	I.	.....	1,169
Nilphamari Union Tea Co., Ltd.	Martin & Co.	...	.....
Nilpur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I.	155	
*Noahabarie Tea Estates, Ltd.	B. D. & Co.	...	657	
Noanuddy Tea Concern ...	Raja of Mymen- singh.	...	350	
Noarbund Tea Co. ...	.....	...	.....	380
Nokroy (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....
§Noonmati Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....
North-Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	1,478
Noyapara Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	L.	.....	835
Oating Tea Estate ...	P. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	223	
Ooterbhag & Indanugger Tea Estate.	G. C. Dutt ...	...	.....	896
Orang Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	511	
Oriental Tea Co., Ltd. ...	I. P. A. Co., Ltd.	...	125	
Pabbojan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	2,147	
Padoomoni Tea Seeds Syndi- cate.	.....	..	56	
**Palakandi Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Panbari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	280	
Panbarry Tea Estate ...	.....	...	413	

*Noahabarie Tea Estate now a division of the Jorehat Tea Co., Ltd.

‡Is a division of Luxmi Tea Co., Ltd.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Panchnoi Tea Estate ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	350	
Panikhati Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Parbutpore Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	500
Pathini Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....	1,999
Patrakola Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	607	4,417
Phukennagor Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Phukenbarri Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	I.	484	
Purapbarri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	300	
Purbutguri Tea Seed Garden	.....	...	.....
Prithimpassa Wards Estate	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Rajabarree Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	517	
Rajabarree Tea Estate ...	.....	...	550	
* Rajabhetta Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	I.	347	
Rajah Ali Tea Estates, Ltd. -	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	388	
Rajgarh Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I.	236	
Rajnagar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	.....	848
Rajmai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	2,309	
Ramani Krishna Tea Estate	.....	...	.....	138
Ramsa Hill Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	112	
Rangolloo Tea Estate ...	.....	...	90	
Rani Tea Estate ...	.....	...	270	
Romai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	574	
Roopabally Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	302
Roopacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	072
Rowriah Tea Estate ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	247	
Rukni Tea Co., Ltd. ...	H. M. Girling	L.	470	
Rungajsun Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	2,136	

* Withdraw from the Agreement as from 7th February 1925.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Rungamattee Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	744
Rungicherra Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	..	.....	350
Rungliting Tea Co. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	605	
Rupajuli Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	806	
Rupai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	1,057	
*Rupshi Tea Estate ...	J. Mackillican & Co.	...	110	
Rutema Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I.	...	1,201
Sabajpur (Jhingala) Tea Estate.	Cachar Native Joint Stock Co., (Proprs.) Ltd.	...	{ 300	
		...	{ 701	
Sadasiva Tea Estate ...	.....	...	30	
Salchapra Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Solonah Tea Co., Ltd. ...	M. M. & Co.	I.	4,389	
Sapoi Tea Co., Ltd. ...	J. F. & Co., Ltd.	I.	864	
Scottish Assam Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co., Ltd.	I.	1,314	
Scottpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,400
Seajuli Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	521	
Sephinjuri Bheel Tea Co., Ltd.	W. M. & Co.	L.	.....	2,163
Shakomato Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	945	
Sibsagar Tea Co., Ltd. ...	.....	...	364	
Silonebari Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	L.	1,174	
Singlijan Tea Estates ...	S. F. & Co., Ltd.	...	246	
Singlo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co.	L.	3,659	
Singphoo Tea Estate ...	Baloma Tea Co.	...	60	
Sonabheel (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	603	
Sonar River Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Davenport & Co.	I.	.....	800
Sonapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Martin & Co.	..	350	
Sonarupa Tea Estate ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	546

*Formerly known as Lalkara Tea Estate.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACBRAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
South Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. ..	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	412
Sreeburi Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	.....	250
Star Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	...	.....	120
Sreekona Tea Estate ...	.....	...	.....
Sridharpore Tea Estate ...	A. W. Figgis & Co.	...	.....	450
Srihatta Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. W. Figgis & Co.	...	.....	279
Sukanjuri Tea Estate ...	B. L. & Co., Ltd.	...	100	
Sumati Tea Estate ...	I. P. A. & Co., Ltd.	...	120	
Surma Valley Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	L.	.....	1,207
Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Barry & Co.	L.	.....	700
Sylhet Tea & Industry, Ltd. ...	Traders Associa- tion.	...	.....	310
Taikrong Tea Estate ...	Tea Estates India, Ltd.	I.	454	
Tamulbari Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	...	320	
Tara Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	L.	1,200	
Tarapore Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	6,064
*Teekulpar Tea Estate ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	...	.....
Teen Ali Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	517	
Teloijan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	McLeod & Co.	I.	450	
Teliapara Tea Co., Ltd. ...	D. B. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	1,172
Tengpani Tea Co., Ltd. ...	G. A. & Co.	I.	107	
†Tezporo Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	806	
Thakurbari Tea Estate ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	.....
Thansai Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	2,003	
Thengalbaroo Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,490	
Madhabpur and Thengalbari				
Tilkah Tea Co., Ltd. ...	O. S. & Co., Ltd.	I.	.....	769
Timon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.	...	170	

* Incorporated in the Jatinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd.

† Includes Bettybari.

NAME.	Calcutta Agents.	Where signed (India or London or both.)	ACREAGE.	
			Brahmaputra Valley.	Surma Valley.
Tinkong Tea Co., Ltd. ...	A. Y. & Co., Ltd.	I	822	
Tingri Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	1,987	
Tirual Tea Estate ...	National Agency Co., Ltd.	I.	175	
Titabur Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	625	
Titadimore Tea Estate ...	Barry & Co.	I.	307	
Titajuri Tea Estate ...	.....	...	30	
Tongani Tea Estate ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	366	
Tonijan Tea Co., Ltd. ...	W. M. & Co.	I.	221	
Tyroon Tea Co., Ltd. ...	B. D. & Co., Ltd.	I.	652	
Udalguri Tea Estate ...	P. S. Agency Co. Ltd.	...	185	
Udna Tea Co., Ltd. ...	S. W. & Co.	I.	.....	375
Union Tea & Trading Co., Ltd.	.....	...	.....	300
Upper Assam Tea Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I & L.	4,208	
Western Cachar Co., Ltd. ...	Macneill & Co.	I.	.....	1,199
Western Dooars Tea Syndicate, Ltd.	G. W. & Co.	...	200	
Woodlands Tea Estate ...	.....	...	80	
Zaloni Tea Co., Ltd. ...	P. S. & A. Co., Ltd.	I.	563	
			289,302	146,297
Total ...	.....	...	415,599	

Indian Tea Association.

SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

RULES.

1. The Association shall be called the "Surma Valley Branch" of the Indian Tea Association.
2. The objects of the Association are generally to watch over and, as far as possible, to protect the interests of the tea industry of the Surma Valley, also to keep in touch with Government, the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and other Associations on matters connected with the Indian tea industry.
3. The Association shall consist of Companies, Proprietors, or Concerns occupied in the production of tea in the Surma Valley. Such Companies or Concerns shall ordinarily be represented by the nominee of their Calcutta Agents on the District Committees of each district in which they are interested.
4. Private Proprietors or Concerns not having Managing Agents shall be entitled to elect one Member to the Committee of each district in which they own an interest, provided that the gross area amounts to 1,000 acres. Such election to be balloted for among themselves on the basis of one vote for each 100 acres of tea subscribed for the Association. Companies or Concerns wishing to join need not necessarily be members of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.
 - (a) The funds of the Branch shall be provided by an annual subscription of one anna per acre under tea cultivation, by those Companies, or Concerns, who subscribe to the general funds of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, and a subscription of two annas per acre by those who do not so subscribe.
 - (b) If it shall be found that any Manager or Managers or Agents have evaded payment on his or their acreage,

he or they shall be called upon to pay up the arrears for the last three years, and shall not be entitled to vote or benefit by any of the privileges of the Association, until that sum be paid in full.

5. (a) The Surma Valley shall be divided into the following nine districts:—

Luskerpur, Balisera, Lungla and Jhuri, Doloi and North of Surma, Chargola and Longai, Luckipur, Hailakandy, Chutla Bheel, Happy Valley North Cachar.

- (b) In each of the above-named districts, a Committee, to be termed a District Committee, shall be formed; the members of such Committee shall be appointed by the Calcutta Agents interested in the District, each Agency House so interested being empowered to appoint one member.

- (c) Members, not having Managing Agents, may ballot for one independent member for each District Committee in whose area they hold an interest in tea as provided for in Rule 3.

- (d) An Honorary Chairman and Honorary Secretary shall be elected annually, as soon as possible, after the 1st July, but not later than the end of that month, by the Members of each District Committee from among their number. These offices may be held by one and the same person.

- (e) In the case of a member of a District Committee, or the General Committee being absent on leave, or permanently leaving the District, his Agents in the former case and his District Committee in the latter case, shall elect his substitute.

- (f) A District Committee may consist of any number of members, not less than three and shall meet at least twice annually, preferably a fortnight previous to each of the two General Committee Meetings.

- (g) Any member of a District Committee, unavoidably absent from a meeting, may give his proxy to any other member of the same District Committee.
- (h) At a District Committee Meeting three members present in person, or two members present in person and one by proxy shall form a quorum.
- (i) When any matter of interest or importance is brought to the notice of the Honorary Chairman of a District Committee he shall instruct the Honorary Secretary to call a meeting of which fourteen days' notice shall ordinarily be given (except in a case of urgency when seven days' shall suffice); a report of the Proceedings of such meetings shall be sent to the Secretary to the Branch. District Committee shall take action through the Branch Secretary, who shall have the matter in question brought before the Chairman of the Branch for orders.
- (j) A District Committee may discuss and pass a resolution on, or make suggestions in connection with, any subject affecting local planting interests, either directly or otherwise. Any member may require his District Committee representative to bring up for discussion any subject which may affect his interest. The District Committee may, thereupon, require their representative on the General Committee to bring the matter before that Committee for the necessary action, if any.
- (k) Each member of a District Committee shall be entitled to one vote for every complete 100 acres of tea, which he represents and which has paid the annual subscription to the Branch. The Chairman in case of equal voting to have a casting vote.
- (l) District Committee members shall, when a meeting is impracticable, state their views in writing to the Honorary Secretary, who in conjunction with the Chairman, shall draw up a resolution in accordance with the opinion expressed by the majority, and

forward same to the Secretary of the General Committee for approval and action, if any.

6. (a) For the conduct of the Association's business the different District Committees shall, as soon as possible, after the 1st July, but not later than the end of that month, elect the representatives they are entitled to as specified below, who shall form the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch, which Committee shall at their first meeting thereafter, elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman need not necessarily be a member of any District Committee.

Luskerpore	...	...	District shall elect one member.
Balisera	...	...	" " " two members.
Lungla Jhuri Doloi &			
North of Surma	...	"	" " three members.
Chargola and Longai	...	"	" " two members.
Hailakandy	...	...	" " " " "
Chutla Bheel	...	...	" " " " "
Luckipore	...	...	" " " " "
Happy Valley	...	...	" " " one member.
North Cachar	...	...	" " " " "

or sixteen members in all irrespective of the Chairman.

- (b) In all matters of whatsoever nature that come up before the General Committee, each member shall have one vote only.
- (c) The Chairman or his Deputy in cases of equality of votes, shall have a second or casting vote,
- (d) In cases of a member of the General Committee being absent on leave or more than three months, or permanently leaving the district he shall notify the Branch Secretary of his intention, if possible, at least one month previous to his departure, so that a substitute may be provided for.
- (e) The meetings of the General Committee shall take place at least half-yearly as soon after 1st January and 1st

July respectively as possible, subject to one month's notice but the Chairman or his Deputy may if he thinks fit, call a special meeting of the Committee to consider any matter of urgency or importance, and shall give seven days' notice of such meetings.

- (f) The meeting of the General Committee shall ordinarily be held at Silchar, except that it shall be optional for the Sylhet members to claim that each alternate meeting be held at some convenient place in Sylhet to be decided upon by them; but notice of such intention must be given to the Secretary at least one month previous to the date of the meeting which they propose should be held in Sylhet.
 - (g) Any member unable to attend a meeting may give his proxy to another member of the General Committee to act for him.
 - (h) Any member of the General Committee who is not present in person or by proxy at any three consecutive meetings of that Committee creates a vacancy; and the Secretary of the Branch shall request his District Committee to nominate another representative.
 - (i) In the event of a Chairman of either the General or District Committee wishing to resign during the term of his office, he shall call a meeting to appoint a substitute, giving, if possible, one month's but not less than seven days' notice of such meeting; and shall continue to act until such appointment is made.
 - (j) Seven members present in person, or five in person and two by proxy, shall form a quorum at any meeting of the General Committee.
 - (k) The General Committee shall appoint and control the paid Secretary, whose office shall be an annual one.
7. (a) The Secretary shall ordinarily keep a register of all Proceedings and carry on the clerical work of the Branch, and shall collect the subscription due to the Branch. He shall draw up and submit accounts to

the General Committee in each half-year, as soon as possible, after the 1st January, and the 1st July.

A copy of accounts shall be sent to all members one month before the meeting at which they would come up before the General Committee for discussion and sanction; and copies of accounts shall, thereafter, be circulated to all members.

(b) The Secretary shall also circulate to all members a copy of all communications issued under the authority of the General Committee; and upon receiving particulars a copy of the proceedings of all District Committee meetings; also a copy of the proceedings of all General Committee Meetings.

(c) The Secretary shall furnish the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with a copy of all communications emanating from, and Proceedings of General and District Committees.

8. The Secretary, on receiving particulars from the Chairman of the General or District Committees concerning matters of public interest which require the attention of the Branch (should the Chairman consider a meeting inexpedient,) shall circulate copies of the particulars to all members of the General Committee, who shall furnish the Secretary within a fortnight with his written opinion, so that in conjunction with the Chairman of the Branch, he may decide by the general opinion what action should be taken.

9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by ten ordinary members of the Surma Valley Branch of the Association stating the reason therefor, the Secretary shall convene an Ordinary General Meeting of members of the Branch at Silchar, or giving one month's notice of such meeting and stating for what reason, and on whose requisition it has been called.

Indian Tea Association.

Surma Valley Branch.

Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1924.

RECEIPTS.	Rs.		A.		P.		Rs.		A.		P.	
	A.	P.	A.	P.	A.	P.	A.	P.	A.	P.	A.	P.
To Balance brought forward from 31st December 1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	195	0	...	...	...	...
" Arrears subscription collected for 1923	62	8	0	...	...	...	40	3	0	...	...	...
" SUBSCRIPTIONS COLLECTED FOR 1924:—							65	0	0	...	...	...
From Cachar Gardens	3,702	14	0	...	...	...	3,600	0	0	...	...	...
" Sylhet	4,979	7	3	...	...	...	1,200	0	0	...	...	...
" Office allowance from Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, @ Rs. 100 per month	1,200	0	0	...	...	...	60	0	0	...	...	...
" Sale of old Directory	10	0	0	...	...	...	50	0	0	...	...	...
							495	4	0	...	...	...
							771	3	0	...	...	...
							2,900	12	0	...	...	...
							15	0	0	...	...	...
							8	10	0	...	...	...
							34	14	0	...	...	...
							12	8	0	...	...	...
							55	14	6	...	...	...
							46	13	0	...	...	...
							9,551	8	6	...	...	...
							2,294	15	11	...	...	...
							370	2	0	...	...	...
							2,665	1	11	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,216	10	5	...	...	...
							GRAND TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...

BINNARANDI T. E.,
The 1st January 1925.

W. E. D. COOPER,
Secretary.

Indian Tea Association.

Surma Valley Branch.

Statement of Accounts for the half-year ending 30th June 1925.

RECEIPTS.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	EXPENDITURE.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
To Balance brought forward from 31st December 1924	2,465	1	11	By Postage stamps	172	5	0	...	...	...
" SUBSCRIPTIONS COLLECTED FOR 1925 :—	" Telegrams	3	...	...	...	...	...
From Cachar Gardens	3,704	8	0	...	...	...	" Chairman's bill for stamps, telegrams, etc.	26	9	0	...	...	...
" Sylhet	4,827	11	3	8,532	3	3	" Secretary's pay	1,366	10	8	...	...	...
" Office allowance from I. T. A., Calcutta, @ Rs. 100/- per month from January to June 1925	" House allowance to I. T. A. Baha	720	0	0	...	...	...
" Sale of old Directory	10	0	0	...	...	...	" Subscription to I. Chittagong Chamber of Commerce	30	0	0	...	...	...
	" Stationery	50	0	0	...	...	...
	" Printing charges	189	7	0	...	...	...
	" Travelling allowance to members of General Committee	828	15	0	...	...	...
	" Subscription to local newspapers	1,750	13	0	...	...	...
	" Expenses in connection with the General Meeting held on 23rd February 1925	3	5	0	...	...	...
	" Mr. Cooper's furlough allowance	61	4	0	...	...	...
	" Legal expenses	900	0	0	...	...	...
	" Thacker's Indian Directory	32	0	0	...	...	...
	" Freight, Carriage of stationery and petty charges	34	14	0	...	...	...
	BALANCE :—	47	5	0	...	...	...
	Imperial Bank of India	...	12	0	...	...	...
	Cash in hand	4,288	12	6	...	...	...
		1,321	12	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL	11,807	5	2	GRAND TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...

Subscription outstanding to end of 30th June 1925 :—

LALLANG T. E.,
The 15th July 1925.

Ruthna T. E. ... Rs. 31-4-0
Sabazore T. E. " 35-0-0
Gobindpur T. E. " 84-6-0

TOTAL Rs. 150-10-0

R. A. PALMER,
Secretary.

SURMA VALLEY BRANCH.

Indian Tea Association.

List of members of the General Committee elected for the year 1925-26.

Members.

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C., (*Chairman.*)

MR. H. M. JAMES, (<i>Vice-Chairman.</i>)		
" C. A. WILLIAMS ...	...	} <i>Lungla-Juri-Doloi & North of Surma.</i>
" J. ELDER ...	...
" C. MACLEOD ...	...	} <i>Balisera.</i>
" R. T. FRASER ...	...
" H. GILBERT ...	...	<i>Inskerpore.</i>
" P. S. DOUBELL ...	...	} <i>Chargola-Longai.</i>
" T. E. HOLBROOK ...	...
" W. STEWART ...	...	} <i>Luckipur.</i>
" F. W. CARPENTER ...	...
" A. F. STUART ...	...	<i>Happy Valley.</i>
" J. MACKNIGHT ...	...	<i>North Cachar.</i>
" J. D. JENKINS ...	...	} <i>Chutla Bheel.</i>
" A. K. MURRAY ...	...
" H. L. BIGGE ...	...	} <i>Hailakandi.</i>
" A. MCCREATH ...	...

MR. W. E. D. COOPER, *Secretary.*

*List of Members of the District Committees elected for the
year 1925-26.*

Lukhipur District Committee.

Name of Members.	Address.	Representative of Messrs.
Mr. W. Stewart, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Labac	... Macneill & Co.
„ A. R. Harvey	... Tilka Tea Co.	... Octavius Steel & Co., Ld.
„ F. W. Carpenter	... Chingoor	... Barlow & Co.
„ J. E. Campbell	... Monierkhal	... Davenport & Co.

Happy Valley District Committee.

The Manager	Koombergram	... Octavius Steel & Co., Ld.
Mr. A. B. Beddow	... Urrunabund	... Balmer, Lawrie & Co. Ld.
„ J. N. Dewar	... Cossipore	... Macneill & Co.
„ D. H. Mackay	... Areuttipore	... J. Mackillican & Co.
„ J. M. Taylor	... Doyapore	... Walker, Goward & Co.
„ F. Ross Jones	... Chandighat	... Duncan Brothers & Co., Ld.
„ J. Rogerson	... Dooloogram	... McLeod & Co.
„ G. S. Gall	... Martycherra	... Barry & Co.
„ A. F. Stuart, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Larsingah	... Begg, Dunlop & Co., Ld.

Chutla Bheel District Committee.

Mr. A. K. Murray, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Silcoorie	... Jardine, Skinner & Co.
„ E. C. T. Dodd	... West-Jalinga	... Duncan Brothers & Co.
„ H. J. Mounsey	... Derby	... Octavius Steel & Co., Ld.
„ C. A. Jameson	... Iringmara	... Geo. Henderson & Co.
„ A. B. Beddow	... Urrunabund	... Balmer, Lawrie & Co. Ld.
„ J. N. Talbot	... Chincoorie	... Villiers, Ld.
The Manager	... Kuttal	... McLeod & Co.
„ „	... Boro-Jalingah	... James Finlay & Co., Ld.

Hailakandi District Committee.

Mr. H. L. Bigge, (<i>Chair-</i>	Lallacherra	...	<i>Jardine, Skinner & Co.</i>
<i>man & Hon. Secy.</i>)			
„ A. McCreath	... Dholai	...	<i>Duncan Brothers & Co.</i>
„ F. R. Johnson	... Kalacherra	...	<i>Octavius Steel & Co.,</i> <i>Id.</i>
„ J. H. Jewell	... Roopacherra	...	<i>Begg, Dunlop & Co.,</i> <i>Id.</i>
„ R. H. Hossack	... Koyal	...	<i>Macneill & Co.</i>
„ J. A. Elliot	... Manipore	...	<i>Gillanders, Arbutnot</i> <i>& Co.</i>
„ B. Gupta	... Vernerpore	...	<i>The Secretary, Cachar</i> <i>Native Joint Stock</i> <i>Co., Id.</i>

North Cachar District Committee.

Mr. J. MacKnight, (<i>Chair-</i>	Kurkorie	...	<i>Duncan Brothers &</i> <i>Co., Id.</i>
<i>man & Hon. Secy.</i>)			
„ A. G. Furrell	... Hattieherra	...	<i>Macneill & Co.</i>
„ D. E. Gomme	... Ballacherra	...	<i>Jardine, Skinner & Co.</i>
„ M. T. Beatts	... Craigpark	...	<i>Barry & Co.</i>
„ W. E. Legge	... Kallinecherra	...	<i>Octavius Steel & Co.,</i> <i>Id.</i>
„ J. M. Barry	... Jatinga Valley	...	<i>Begg, Dunlop & Co.,</i> <i>Id.</i>

Chargola-Longai District Committee.

Mr. J. C. Dawson, M.L.C.,	Isa Bheel	...	<i>Octavius Steel & Co.,</i> <i>Id.</i>
Mr. J. B. Marshall	... Eratigool & Binodini.	...	<i>Private Gardens.</i>
„ P. S. Doubell, (<i>Chair-</i>	Sephinjuri	...	<i>Williamson, Magor &</i> <i>Co.</i>
<i>man & Hon. Secy.</i>)			
„ G. Raynor	... Goombira	...	<i>James Finlay & Co. Id.</i>
„ T. E. Holbrook	... Dullabcherra	...	<i>McLeod & Co.</i>

Lungla-Juri-Doloi and North of Surma District Committee.

Mr. H. M. James, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Shumshernagar	Octavius Steel & Co., <i>Ld.</i>
„ J. Elder	... Allynugger	... Duncan Brothers & Co., <i>Ld.</i>
„ A. B. Hyslop	... New Samanbagh.	Shaw, Wallace & Co.
„ F. J. Heathcote	... Dhamai	... James Finlay & Co., <i>Ld.</i>
„ D. Smith	... Sonarupa	... Macneill & Co.
„ J. N. Ross	... Ghazipore	... Andrew Yule & Co. <i>Ld.</i>
„ C. A. Williams	... Ruthna	... McLeod & Co.
„ F. W. Wilson	... Phooltullah	... Williamson, Magor & Co.
„ P. Woodland	... Lackatoorah	... J. Mackillican & Co.
The Manager	... Malnicherra	... Barry & Co.

Balisera District Committee.

Mr. C. MacLeod, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Deanston	... James Finlay & Co., <i>Ld.</i>
„ A. G. Morris	... Mazdehee	... Planters' Stores & Agency Co., <i>Ld.</i>
„ R. T. Fraser.	... Satgaon	... Octavius Steel & Co., <i>Ld.</i>

Luskerpore District Committee.

Mr. H. Gilbert, (<i>Chairman & Hon. Secy.</i>)	Chandeecherra...	Octavius Steel & Co., <i>Ld.</i>
„ P. Cruikshank	... Teliapara	... Duncan Brothers & Co., <i>Ld.</i>
„ J. W. Smart	... Chandpore	... Barry & Co.
„ S. Petterson	... Reina	... McLeod & Co.
„ J. E. Aird	... Deundi	... Planters' Stores & Agency Co., <i>Ld.</i>
„ S. Parrot	... Luskerpore	... Shaw, Wallace & Co., <i>Ld.</i>
„ D. Tulloch	... Rasidpur	... James Finlay & Co. <i>Ld.</i>

**Representatives of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea
Association, on the Assam Labour Board.**

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C.

„ C. MACLEOD.

„ H. L. BIGGE.

The Indian Tea Cess Committee.

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C.

„ C. MACLEOD.

The Assam Legislative Council.

MR. E. W. HOBSON, M.L.C.

„ J. C. DAWSON, M.L.C.

*List of Proprietors, Members of the Surma Valley Branch,
Indian Tea Association, on the 30th June 1925.*

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultiva- tion.
		Acre.
Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ltd. ...	<i>The Amalgamated Tea Estates Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Morapore	324½
	<i>The Anglo-American Direct Tea Trading Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Boro-Jalingah	668½
	<i>The Consolidated Tea & Lands Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Lullecherra ... 1,648½	
	Jafflong ... 973	
	Lallakhal ... 179½	
	Goombira ... 1,328½	
	Baitakhal ... 429½	
	Sagurnal ... 620½	
	Holicherra ... 538	
	Deanston ... 2,452½	
	Rajghat ... 2,384½	
	Balisera ... 1,493	
	Phulecherra ... 1,023½	
	Amrail ... 1,974	
	Jagecherra ... 909	
		15,953½
	<i>The Chargola Tea Association, Ltd. :—</i>	
	Chargola ... 1,532½	
	Hingajea ... 883½	
	Singlacherra ... 952	
	Maguracherra ... 643½	
		4,011½
	<i>The Baraora (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Baraora ... 1,430	
	Rasidpore ... 1,400	
	Daragaon ... 1,236½	
		4,066½
	Carried over ...	25,024½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Acres. 25,024½
Messrs. James Finlay & C., Ltd.,— <i>contd.</i>	<i>The Dhamai Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Dhamai ... 1,074	
	Kapnapahar ... 634	1,708
	<i>The Noyapara Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Noyapara	835
	<i>Doloi Tea Co., Ltd.</i>	587
Messrs. Jardine, Skinner & Co. ...	<i>Bengal United Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Aenakball ... 1,497	
	Lallamookh ... 764	
	Lallacherra ... 769	
	Singalla ... 755	
	Ruttonpore ... 820	4,605
	<i>Ballacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	931
	<i>Cachar & Dooars Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Silcoorie ... 1,448	
	Poloi ... 637	
	Sultanicherra ... 695	2,780
	<i>Central Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Burnie Braes ... 923	
	Serispore ... 568	1,491
	<i>Chandypore Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	794
	<i>Kallinugger & Khoreel Tea Co., Ltd.</i>	599
	Carried over ...	39,354½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under Tea cultivation.
		Acres.
	Brought forward ...	39,354½
Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co.	<i>Luskerpore Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,015
	<i>New Samanbagh Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	949
	<i>Rajnagar Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	863½
	<i>Surma Valley Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Silloah Divn. ... 620 Rajkie. „ ... 614	1,234
Messrs. Macneill & Co.	<i>Tarnapore Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Labac Divn. } ...	6,064
	Dewan „ } ...	
	Burtoll „ } ...	
	<i>Scottpore Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Scottpore } ...	1,411
	Pollarbund } ...	
	Narainpore } ...	
	<i>Doodputlee Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Hatticherra } ...	1,445
	Doodputlee } ...	
	<i>Cossipore Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	659
	<i>Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	1,119
	<i>Majagram Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Majagram Divn. ... 473 Subong „ ... 807	1,280
	<i>Koyah Tea Estate</i> ...	709
	<i>Kalline Tea Estate</i> ...	1,354
	<i>Bhubandhur Tea Estate</i> ...	652
	<i>Dilkhoosh Tea Estate</i> ...	479
	<i>Sonarupa Tea Estate</i> ...	546
	Carried over ...	59,133¾

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under Tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Aeres. 59,133 $\frac{3}{4}$
Messrs. Barry & Co.	<i>Cheerie Valley Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	588
	<i>Craigpark Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ..	408
	<i>Chandpore Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Chandpore Divn. ... 1,161	
	Parkul „ ... 408	
	<i>Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,569 700
Messrs. Duncan Brothers & Co., Ltd.	<i>Dooloo Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,449
	<i>Jalingah Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	701 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<i>North-Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Kurkorie Divn. ... 914	
	Bierampore & Dulcherra ... 1,022	
		1,936
	<i>Chandighat Tea Estate</i> ...	744
	<i>Amo Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Amo Divn. ... 885	
	Nalua „ ... 470	
		1,357
	<i>Teliapara Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Teliapara Divn. ... 766	
	Satchuri „ ... 397	
		1,163
	<i>Allynugger Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Allynugger Divn. .. 1,538	
	Chatlapore „ ... 1,040	
		2,578
	<i>Patrakola Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Patrakola Divn. ... 1,057	
	Kurmah „ ... 932	
	Madabpore „ ... 767	
	Champarai „ ... 909	
	Rampore & Burkhola 850	
		4,515
	Carried over ...	76,842 $\frac{1}{4}$

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Acres. 76,842½
Messrs. Duncan Brothers & Co.	<i>Indian Tea Co. of Cachar, Ltd.:—</i>	
	Rosekandy ...	1,297
	<i>Kukicherra Tea Co., Ltd.:—</i>	
	Kukicherra Divn. ... 762	
	Dholai „ ... 1,040	1,802
	<i>New Kunchnupore Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	547
	<i>Dauracherra Tea Estate ...</i>	576
	<i>Clevedon Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	518½
	<i>Borokai Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	706
Messrs. Balmer, Lawrie & Co.	<i>British Indian Tea Co., Ltd.:—</i>	
	Dwarbund Divn. ... 427½	
	Urrunabund „ ... 519	946½
Mr. A. M. Chalmers	<i>Cutlacherra Tea Estate ...</i>	260
Messrs. Begg, Dunlop & Co., Ltd.	<i>Jetinga Fally Tea Co., Ltd.:—</i>	
	Jetinga Divn. ... 495½	
	Koomber & Teekulpar 1,191	
	Larsingah ... 663	2,349½
	<i>Roopacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	672
	<i>South Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.:—</i>	
	Jafferbund ...	412
Messrs. Walker, Goward & Co.	<i>Doyapore Tea Estate ...</i>	423
	Carried over ...	87,351½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Acres. 87,351 $\frac{1}{4}$
Messrs. McLeod & Co.	<i>Imperial Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Kuttal Divn. ... 1,000	
	Rema „ ... 620	
	Ruthna „ ... 500	
	Surma „ ... 1,143	3,263
	<i>Dooloogram Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Dooloogram Divn. ... 482	
	Pathieherra „ ... 700	1,182
	<i>East India & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Dullabcherra Divn. 1,388	
	Mookhamcherra „ 793	2,181
Messrs. Williamson Magor & Co.	<i>New Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Phooltullah ...	1,168
	<i>Sephinjuri Bheel Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Sephinjuri Divn. ... 1,576 $\frac{1}{4}$	
	Tilbhum „ ... 659 $\frac{1}{4}$	2,235 $\frac{1}{2}$
Messrs. Gillanders, Ar- buthnot & Co.	<i>Manipore Tea Estate</i> ...	528
Messrs. Villiers, Ltd. ...	<i>Chincoorie Tea Estate</i> ...	500
Messrs. J. Mackillican & Co.	<i>Arcuttipore Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	820
	<i>Lackatoorah Tea Co., Ltd.</i> ...	1,223
	Carried over ...	100,452 $\frac{1}{4}$

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY.	Area under tea cultivation.
	Brought forward ...	Acres. 100,452½
Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.	<i>Alyne-Pathemara Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Alyne Divn. ... 350	
	Pathemara „ ... 618	
	—	968
	<i>Budderpore Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	500
	<i>Longai Valley Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Chandkhira Divn. ... 839½	
	Longai & Adam Tila „ ... 1,092	
	—	1,931½
	<i>Chundeccherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	545
	<i>Derby Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	1,153
	<i>Eastern Cachar Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	1,103
	<i>Endogram Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	721
	<i>Hattikhira Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Hattikhira } ...	2,409
	Solgoi }	
	<i>Kaliti Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	400
	<i>Kalacherra Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	463
	<i>Loobackerra ...</i>	466
	<i>Kallinecherra ...</i>	700
	<i>Lungla (Sylhet), Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Lungla Divn. ... 700	
	Shumsbernugger „ .. 1,604	
	Kannyhatti „ ... 1,265	
	Eta & Burrumsal ... 905	
	—	4,474
	<i>Pathini Tea Co., Ltd. :—</i>	
	Pathini } ...	1,982
	Champabarie }	
	Piplagool }	
	<i>Sathgao Tea Estate ...</i>	917
	<i>Tilkah Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	759
	<i>Isa Bheel Tea Co., Ltd. ...</i>	955
	Carried over ...	120,898½

Calcutta Agents.	NAMES OF GARDENS OR COMPANY	Area under Tea cultiva- toin.
	Brought forward ...	Acres. 120,898½
Gagan Chandra Dutt	<i>Cachar Native Joint Stock Co.,</i> <i>Ld. :—</i> Vernerpore Divn. ... 700 Sabazpore „ ... 280	980
Planters' Stores & Agency Co., Ld.	<i>Denndi Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Lalchand Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Mazdehee Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Roopabally Tea Estate</i> ...	1,345 853 660 175
Messrs. Martin & Co.	<i>Bidyanagar Tea Estate</i> ...	850
Messrs. Geo. Hender- son & Co.	<i>Iringmara Tea Co., Ld. :—</i> Bagh 'O' Bahar ...	374
Messrs. Davenport & Co.	<i>Sonai River Tea Co., Ld. :—</i> Monierkhal Tea Estate ...	800
Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co.	<i>Ghazipore Tea Estate</i> ...	570
Messrs. Barlow & Co.	<i>Brae & Chingoor Tea Estates, Ld.</i>	797
Private Gardens ...	<i>Rukni Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Parhutpore Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Bhudright Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Gobindpore Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Eraligool & Binodini Tea Estate</i> ... <i>Bundookmara Tea Estate</i> ...	450 480 656 675 742 400
Messrs. Crozier's Ag- ency, Ld., Silebar.	<i>Amaranagar Tea Estate</i> ...	82½
	GRAND TOTAL ...	131,787¾

